

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 19, 2021



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

Maj. Carla Cox, 59th Medical Wing commander's executive officer, vaccinates a San Antonio Military Health System beneficiary, Feb. 6 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Warrior medics from the 59th Medical Wing were out Feb. 6 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, working tirelessly to vaccinate the local 75-plus-age population. For more information on what tier the San Antonio Military Health System is currently vaccinating, please visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus>.

SAMHS members vaccinate seniors 75 and older

Page 14



ARNORTH honors Buffalo Division

Page 8



Army Medicine marks significant milestone

Page 7

Department of the Air Force leaders focus on resiliency

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Amid a pandemic and an ever-changing world, the mental health of Airmen, Guardians and their families is a continued priority for the Department of the Air Force. Senior leaders are focused on building and growing resilience by establishing a task force called Operation Arc Care. This task force is currently reviewing resilience programs and overarching strategy using a phased approach which began in November.

"Like the continuation of an electric force created through an arc, no matter where you or your family go, it is up to us to make sure there is continuity for our member's resiliency needs," said Brig. Gen. Claude Tudor, Air Force Resilience director.

The task force was established in response to ongoing feedback received over the last year and as part of the 2019 Resiliency Tactical Pause and has three phases.

The first phase began in November and focused on developing a common operating picture by collecting data, evaluating policies, and examining resources dedicated to resilience programs and services.

Phase two is designed to use the material from phase one and additional information collected from major commands and installations to help shape the department's resilience strategy.

In phase three, the team will recommend solutions allowing leaders to adapt the programs and services that best serve the needs of Airmen, Guardians and their families.

"With over 30 years of combat and lots of dedicated teammates investing in the care and support of our forces and families, we never had the opportunity to truly synchronize and develop an integrated human operations platform. We hope to optimize performance and provide the care and support ecosystem needed to ensure our service members can meet the nation's demands when called upon," Tudor said. "We are working to build a culture where we help leaders put their people first. We want to help empower leaders to execute their missions and maintain good order and discipline while

also remaining connected with their team so they can lead with compassion, empathy, character and grace while treating every human with dignity and respect."

The plan is to remove policy barriers and identify initiatives that improve the experience of care for Airmen, Guardians, and family members, according to Col. Laura Ramos, Air Force Resilience strategic partnership division chief.

"With this task force, you will find that spouses and family members are included and have a significant role in Operation Arc Care; and our working sessions are designed to include stakeholders from the installations and major commands," she explained. "This a holistic effort that incorporates feedback and ideas from across the DAF."

The intent is to create a Department of the Air Force resilience strategy that will differ from traditional strategies written in the past, she explained. Instead, the strategy will be adaptive and offer a baseline for installations while providing leaders with tools to take care of AG&F. Operation Arc Care is currently in phase two, with expectations of moving to the next phase by the end of March.

"Our people are the most important resource we have," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. "We've been hearing their challenges, and we owe it to them to build a strategy that ensures our Airmen, Guardians, and families get the care they need, wherever they are, and whenever they need it."

In order to develop that strategy, the Operation Arc Care team will define the Department of the Air Force vision and a five-year goal to identify strategic areas of focus.

"We also want to give our Airmen and Guardians the freedom to innovate; make sure they are adequately resourced and informed; and afforded the space for information sharing and collaboration," Ramos said.

Resiliency resources for Airmen, Guardians, and their families include:

- » Airmen and Family Readiness Centers
- » Chaplains
- » Military Family Life counselors
- » Leadership, such as unit commanders, supervisors, first sergeants, etc.

- » Civilian Employee Assistance programs
- » Key Spouse Programs
- » Community Support Coordinators
- » Equal Opportunity Liaisons
- » Family Advocacy Programs
- » Legal Services
- » Health Promotion programs
- » Exceptional Family Member Programs
- » Mental Health Clinics
- » Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention programs
- » Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinators
- » Members of the Interpersonal Violence Task Forces
- » Air Force Wounded Warrior Programs
- » Survivor Advocacy Councils
- » Invisible Wounds Initiatives
- » Family, Child, & Youth Programs
- » Morale, Wellness, and Recreation programs, and more.

Popular websites include Air Force Resilience, Child Care Aware, Military OneSource, which includes Military Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, the Spouse Resiliency Toolkit, as well as apps such as Air Force Connect.

"We're using community-focused programs customized by major command, base, and garrison-levels because they are best suited for answering the needs of their Airmen, Guardians, and families in their unique locations," Ramos said. "We recognize that having a worldwide presence makes us a 'community of communities' and while many needs are universal, some are specific to certain units, missions, people, areas, and geographic locations."

Guidance will be provided for wings to help communicate new policies, programs and address emerging issues.

"When my teammates and families hear 'resilience,' we want them to think about how they can optimize their performance through mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health, all in the face of potential adversity," Tudor said. "Are leaders at every echelon involved? What resources will we have at your fingertips to click on or call to make an appointment that helps you find their way? Are we providing those resources and are they readily available for all forces and family members to understand and use? That is what we want to get after."

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 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. What was the outcome of the study on whether to allow personal electric golf carts to be used on the JBSA-Randolph Oaks golf course?

A. Thank you for reaching out regarding the use of personal carts. We have concluded that personal golf cart usage is something that we will allow.

While they had been allowed at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston as a benefit extended to those who store their personal carts there, this practice was not allowed across all three locations. We reviewed applicable guidance and regulations, consulted with the appropriate agencies, and reviewed the potential impacts/benefits to the courses, of personal cart usage.

We are currently formulating the policy to ensure consistency at all three courses. We expect to begin allowing the use of personal carts by mid-February. Please download the JBSA Golf Clubs app on your iPhone or Android device, or follow our JBSA Golf Clubs Facebook page to ensure you receive the notification.

Q. I have to wear glasses when I drive and no matter what I try, they fog up when I wear a mask. If my windows are rolled up, can I remove my mask? I'll put it on when I roll down



COURTESY GRAPHIC

my window at the gate.

A. Thank you for your question. While alone in your personal operating vehicle or with members of your immediate household, you do not need to wear a mask.

You do need to wear a mask while driving into the installation if you are interacting with security forces and your window is down. Individuals must wear masks continuously while on JBSA except:

- ▶▶ When an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with windows and doors closed;
- ▶▶ For brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors;
- ▶▶ When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and

▶▶ When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

Additional JBSA policy include:

- ▶▶ Masks will be worn when entering the installation. Please comply if asked by Security Forces to lower masks for security reasons.
- ▶▶ While inside installation fitness centers, masks will be worn at all times except while swimming or using the showers.
- ▶▶ Masks will be worn outdoors when in shared spaces and if 6-ft physical distance cannot be maintained.
- ▶▶ Shared spaces include but are not limited to inside and outside of all facilities, except a person's own residence.
- ▶▶ Failure to wear a mask in accordance with this policy could result to removal from the installation.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>

Maintaining good mental health vital through ongoing pandemic

By Russell Toof
REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND EUROPE

The ongoing coronavirus outbreak has created new challenges for everyone. Normal routines have been replaced by unfamiliar isolation and adjustments to home-life, work, and school.

"There are a lot of folks who are fairly fed up, frustrated, fatigued, and bored after a year of physical distancing," said Lt. Col. Emile Wijnans, the director of psychological health for Regional Health Command Europe. "That's particularly true for elderly, teens and parents."

According to the Center for the Study

of Traumatic Stress, stressors during a period of social distancing/quarantine can include frustration and boredom related to isolation, insufficient information, and fears about becoming infected and/or infecting others.

Wijnans' advice is to accept that things have changed and may not return to pre-COVID-19 conditions for a while or not at all. He says that focusing on what was, is a waste of energy.

"You'll be better if you accept the restricted movement, forestalled plans, restlessness, and isolation," Wijnans said. "Be patient with yourself and others. More importantly, recognize and appreciate all you do have."

Wijnans also says one way to keep from focusing on those changes brought on by COVID-19 is to commit to realistic goals you can control such as daily exercise, the amount of sleep one would get, or diet.

"Focus on the here-and-now and the short term," Wijnans said. "Get involved in activities. It's also important to reduce the amount of news you get from social media. Research has shown the more news you get from social media, the more anxious you get. So try to get your news from reputable resources."

Wijnans added that until the risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced, it will remain important to continue to

wear masks, practice physical distancing, and make an informed decision to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available.

"We're a resilient, social species and we'll get through this," Wijnans said. Behavioral health specialists like Wijnans encourage people to reach out for help if needed. If feeling overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counselor. Have a plan of where to go and how to seek help if required.

For more information on support and well-being during COVID-19, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>, <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/covid19> or <https://www.ctsonline.org/>.

JBSA First Sergeant Diamond Sharp Awards

By the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council

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

Tech. Sgt. Willester House

Unit: 833rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron
Duty title: Cyber Maintenance Technician



Tech. Sgt. Willester House has shown exemplary effort, spearheading multiple time-critical tasks for the Cyber National Mission Force and U.S. Cyber Command. He voluntarily filled in as a squadron representative for the wing operation and intelligence meetings and continues to play a key role in preparing the

squadron's many programs for an Air Combat Command Inspector General's visit. Willester dedicates his time to mentoring younger Airmen on his flight on emergent cyber operator competencies. His dedication to the mission, and ability to excel outside of his core functional area is noticed by the entire unit.

Tech. Sgt. Anastasia A. Miller

Unit: Air Force Services Center
Duty title: Air Force Food and Beverage Manager



As manager of the Air Force Food and Beverage training program, Tech. Sgt. Anastasia A. Miller created the first online food managers course, allowing for the continuing education of 2,700 3F1 Airmen during COVID-19. She was key in modernizing Seymour Johnson Air Force Base's dining facility, installing four point-of-sales

systems for the Food 2.0 transition, enabling a \$2.5 million dollar renovation project and improving the quality of life for 6,000 service members. Selected for the Air Force Installation Mission Support Center's Diversity and Inclusion panel, she attacked social injustice issues and broke barriers for 2,000 Airmen.

Staff Sgt.

Kaitlyn S. Henderson

Unit: 375th Cyberspace Operations Squadron

Duty title: NCOIC, All Source Intelligence Analyst Cell
Staff Sgt. Kaitlyn S. Henderson is a highly motivated leader. As NCOIC,



she expertly leads a low-density, high-demand intelligence cell responsible for a robust U.S. Cyber Command mission set. When her Cyber Mission Team needed someone to manage their training program, Henderson answered the call and had an immediate impact, which led to 58 Cyber-Intel qualified warriors and zero mission shortfalls. Henderson also extended her servant leadership toolkit by becoming a certified suicide "first responder" by completing ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), equipping herself with the confidence and competence to help prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Staff Sgt. Matthew S. Kramer

Unit: Special Warfare Training Support Squadron
Duty title: NCOIC, Project Management



As the linchpin of his flight, Staff Sgt. Matthew S. Kramer not only leads numerous Airmen but manages multiple programs that directly impact the effectiveness of Special Warfare operators. He led the implementation of the Special Warfare Online and augmented reality platform to assist operators in developing advanced skills in land warfare and recognition of enemy air defense systems and networks.

Senior Airman Aaron Gonzalez

Unit: 502nd Security Forces Squadron

Duty title: Base Defense Operations Controller



Senior Airman Aaron Gonzalez has gone above and beyond to showcase his leadership after returning from a deployment to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. He has operated above his pay grade by being one of two Senior Airmen certified in the unit on the position of Base Defense Operations Controller. He also filled in for his

supervisor while on leave and led three Airmen and two programs. He has continued his education and completed nine credits towards his bachelor's degree in psychology.

Senior Airman Seth Z. Hicks

Unit: 502nd Operations Support Squadron
Duty title: Airfield Management Shift Lead



Senior Airman Seth Z. Hicks played a key part in the Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award briefing. He was hand-selected by leadership to brief the award panel on last year's hurricane evacuation bed-downs as well as COVID-19 operations to include the Basic Military Training Air Bridge. Hicks was highlighted by another senior NCO who complimented his ability to brief senior leaders with knowledge, enthusiasm, and delivery usually seen from seasoned leaders and subject matter experts.

Senior Airman Tariana Pedraza

Unit: 59th Dental Squadron
Duty title: Dental Assistant



Senior Airman Tariana Pedraza directs daily operations as the infection control representative for the Base Dental Services flight. She shows herself as a leader by enforcing, practicing and teaching infection control techniques and standards to 65 members. Pedraza also works with the 37th Training Wing where she screened and took radiographs for 400 Special Warfare Airman. Pedraza pursues her education in her spare time, currently enrolled in a master's of science program where she is pursuing her computer science and engineering degree. She is also nine flying hours away from receiving her pilot's license.



Senior Airman

Hyun Mung Seo

Unit: 59th Dental Supporting Squadron

Duty title: Dental Lab Technician

Senior Airman Hyun Mung Seo enthusiastically trained and became a subject matter expert for computer-aided design and

DIAMOND SHARP continues on 5

DIAMOND SHARP

From page 4

manufacturing. She also consistently conducts preventive maintenance for state of the art equipment. Seo guides 12 junior lab technicians on digital crown fabrication. She also oversees the safety of 68 squadron members and is a unit fitness program manager. Additionally, she facilitates the \$48,152 computer milling room for 97 doctors and 32 lab technicians. Seo also scored 97 percent on her 7-level career development course exam.



Airman 1st Class Cheyenne Codnor-Perry

Unit: 35th Intelligence Squadron

Duty title: Cyber Systems Operations

Airman 1st Class Cheyenne Codnor-Perry has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the mission, team members and the 35th Intelligence Squadron. Since her arrival a few months ago, Codnor-Perry has been laser-focused on overhauling standard operating procedures, improving workflow processes and providing critical hands-on Cyber Support to Intel Analysts. She is also a key member of the 35th IS Sponsorship Program, responsible for welcoming new Airmen. Her actions have increased productivity and solidified the unit's cohesion and promotion of the "Bulldog" standard.

Airman 1st Class Leanna L. Garcia

Unit: 93rd Intelligence Squadron

Duty title: Cryptologic Language Analyst

Airman 1st Class Leanna L. Garcia has performed exceptionally as a cryptologic language analyst, intercepting adversary networks and communications. She attended two tradecraft seminars and submitted five intelligence reports, identifying six suspects critical to a Federal Bureau of Investigation case. She highlighted adversary attempts to undermine political stability. Garcia also attended an effective leadership styles seminar and led four Airmen at the San Antonio Food Bank, packaging 3,000 pounds of food



for neighbors in need.

Airman 1st Class Corey M. Gott

Unit: 453rd Electronic Warfare Squadron

Duty title: Electronic Warfare Analyst

As an electronic intelligence analyst, Airman 1st Class Corey M. Gott leads a four-member team to review thousands of signals worldwide discovering radars capable of targeting our combat Air Forces. He has been hand-picked for his technical competency to turn an Air Combat Command idea into a reality. He uses his off time to volunteer in our community and was voted to be the squadron's booster club president.



Airman Sancedric D. Cade

Unit: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-South Central

Duty title: Personal Property Invoicing Technician

Airman Sancedric D. Cade validates invoices submitted by 1,100 transportation service providers for services rendered across 31 installations. In January, he obligated \$10 million in government expenditure and single-handedly approved 4,000 invoices. He also enforced carrier reweigh requirements, collecting \$11,700 in non-performance fees. Cade also authorized 23 stimulus packages valued at \$16,400 to sustain the industry during pandemic operations. Lastly, he denied 74 discrepant charges, saving the Department of Defense \$202,000.



Online tool focuses on exceptional family members

By C. Todd Lopez

DOD NEW

The Exceptional Family Member Program's online tool, EFMP & Me, recently got an upgrade that provides leadership and program service providers with access to an array of information and checklists curated especially for them.

"There are four specific users we identified for EFMP & Me, and now they each have their own section, their own content and an information source for their particular role within the Exceptional Family Member Program," said Karen M. Terry, program analyst with the Defense Department's Office of Military Community and Family Policy.

The four identified users are family members, service members, leaders and providers.

The DOD identifies family members in the Exceptional Family Member program as having a special medical and/or educational need that meets the criteria for enrollment into the program, Terry said.

Terry said the Defense Department created the Exceptional Family Member Program to ensure the department considers the needs of military families during the assignment process.

The online tool is part of the suite of resources on Military OneSource. Planning and development began a few years ago when leaders in the Military Community and Family Policy Office recognized that families with special needs may have concerns unique to their situation that are not addressed elsewhere. MC&FP developed EFMP & Me to provide service members and their families an online tool to explore information and resources of interest to them. Users can access the tool via a



SENIOR AIRMAN ELIZABETH BAKER

U.S. Airmen and the child of a Department of Defense service member congratulate each other after a "Vogelweh Gym Session" at Vogelweh Military Complex, Germany, Oct. 9, 2019.

mobile device or desktop.

"For example, these families have additional concerns or considerations when they're moving," she said. "So, we put together a working group to kind of talk about the idea of checklists. And what became very apparent very quickly was because of the differences in each family's individual concerns and where they might be in their military career, a one-size-fits-all approach would not be sufficient. There are so many variables in every family's military life, and even more so with families in EFMP."

The EFMP & Me tool was born out of those discussions. The tool initially launched in June of last year with resources and checklists tailored for family members. They cover multiple concerns within 10 different topic categories and are customizable to the needs of the user.

"The tool also gives suggestions of resources and tools that they can check out for more support or guidance, like who to ask a particular question to, so that they experience less guesswork and less running around. With EFMP & Me, they have more information on exactly what they need to do to get that PCS move, or whatever it is, done as efficiently as possible," Terry said.

Family members were just the first "profile" available under EFMP & Me. The next profile, made available in August 2020, was for service members.

Terry said they added two new profiles to EFMP & Me in January. One is for military leaders who have service members in their ranks with family members in the EFMP, and one is for service providers within the program.

"The leader's role is to make sure service members are

ready to deploy or whatever the military needs them to do and part of that is ensuring family members are being cared for," Terry said.

"A lot of times we find, with family members who have special needs, there's a lot going on at home, and there are a lot of considerations," Terry said. "It may be that you don't just need to find a babysitter who is skilled at taking care of a child with a particular disability. For those families, it's helpful for the military leader to understand not just that the service member has a family member with special needs, but also that the service member is going to have additional concerns and priorities on their mind."

The EFMP & Me tool gives leaders access to resources that allow them to better understand the Exceptional Family Member Program and

better help their service members. It should be a tool that leaders use to be more effective ensuring their units are ready for whatever the military asks the unit to do, Terry said.

Content for the leader profile is organized in a way that is more intuitive to common questions or situations a leader might face when working with service members who have exceptional family members. Any leader, no matter the rank or number of people he or she leads, can benefit from the information.

"We did our best to anticipate what those questions and situations might be and organized the content accordingly," Terry said. "We wanted to make it less intimidating and easier to get them the information they need quickly. The resources included in EFMP & Me can help promote a service member's readiness and, therefore, help the leader in what he or she is trying to do, which is to maintain a high level of overall readiness."

Terry said service providers are the fourth profile on EFMP & Me. Providers can log in to get program information, as well as professional updates, such as continuing education within the EFMP provider community and news from the Office of Special Needs.

"There are a lot of things on EFMP & Me for service providers that are beyond just the basic information that they should already know as a provider," she said. "It's going to be more of a communication hub for our service providers, as well."

Interested family members, service members, leaders and EFMP service providers can access the EFMP & Me tool at <https://efmpandme.militaryone.source.mil/>. They can also contact Military OneSource 24 hours a day at 1-800-349-9647.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army Medicine AIT marks significant milestone in fight against COVID-19

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, a part of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, marked a significant milestone Feb. 11 in their fight against COVID-19.

The Army component for medical training and education has now safely transported more than 10,000 Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, trainees into and out of the soldier training pipeline since COVID-19 mitigation measures began in early April 2020.

They reached the milestone during one of five scheduled air and ground movements in support of more than 250 Soldiers at the Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex.

"Today represents the 10,000th Soldier that we have shipped from AIT to the first unit of assignment, anywhere in the world," said Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general. "We have not shipped a single sick soldier and this is a remarkable achievement by the entire TRADOC team."

The unit, which is based at JBASA-Fort Sam Houston, has conducted more than 260 such moves in the last nine months since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

During the early days of the pandemic, LeMaster admits that the Army wasn't sure if they were going to continue to allow travel to and from training installations in order to keep the training pipeline open.

"The outlook was uncertain," he said. "We simply didn't know how we could continue to train and maintain the health of the force."

The first thing the organization had to do, LeMaster added, was establish a so-called safety bubble around the training environment to ensure disease wasn't coming in.

They did this initially through screening for the signs and symptoms of illness. Now, trainees are tested for COVID and complete two weeks of quarantine before they are allowed into the safety bubble. Asymptomatic soldiers receive the antigen test and symptomatic soldiers receive a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test.

"The next challenge was to ship our soldiers, worldwide, and safely as well," LeMaster said.

Army Capt. Cotrena Brown-Johnson is the medical logistics officer responsible for coordinating MEDCoE movements.

Brown-Johnson said moving Soldiers in this manner takes a lot of planning and resources, but it is the safest way for trainees to travel during COVID-19.

The moves are accomplished using the most controlled and isolated methods possible. Even aircrews and bus drivers are screened for COVID-19 and the aircraft and buses are sanitized before and after travel.

"At the beginning, we used San Antonio International Airport, but now we are more consolidated here at JBASA-Kelly Field Annex," Brown-Johnson said in explaining the evolution



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Spc. Angela Thresher (center), a 68W Combat Medic identified as the 10,000th Soldier to depart from the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence during the pandemic, speaks with Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster (left), MEDCoE commanding general and MEDCoE Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier (right).

of the current process. "We thank the San Antonio military community and JBASA for all of the resources and support they have given us. It has allowed us to streamline our processes, improving the movement of the Soldiers out in a more expedient, timely manner."

The Soldiers graduated Basic Combat Training before they arrived at JBASA-Fort Sam Houston to complete advanced medical military occupational specialty courses of varying lengths. They now either travel to their first unit of assignment, the next phase of their specialty training, or other military schools like Ranger or Airborne School.

Soldiers who departed Feb. 11 are headed to various units including 23 on continental U.S. military installations including Fort Hood and Fort Bliss in Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort

Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia; Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; as well as three to military installations outside of the continental United States.

The 10,000th soldier was identified as Spc. Angela Thresher, a 68W Combat Medic originally from Washington State, who attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in July and arrived at JBASA-Fort Sam Houston for AIT at the MEDCoE in October.

"I was just told that I am the 10,000th soldier moved," Thresher said. "I think it's a great accomplishment for the Army, especially in this time of the pandemic."

She thinks she and her peers with medical specialty training will be at the forefront of fighting the pandemic.

"Our training is going to come in handy," Thresher said. "I think a lot of people here

don't know how much it's going to affect how they are going to work in this pandemic."

The 33-year-old Soldier, who joined the Army later in life and had already earned an undergraduate and master's degree, is now headed to her first unit of assignment at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Bundled up for the cold, rainy weather and associated low temperature from the cold front that had settled into San Antonio Feb. 11, Thresher said, "I am looking forward to going to a state I have never been to. I am also looking forward to the warmth at the moment."

For his part, LeMaster said he was proud of all 10,000 soldiers and the leaders and planners who have ensured the readiness of the operational and generating force through the controlled moves.

About his expectations for all trainee movements during COVID-19, LeMaster said, "That our soldiers remain healthy and they protect the safety bubble and they arrive at their first unit ready to go."

The general also said that the unit was postured to implement these and other COVID-19 mitigation measures for "as long as it takes" and that he is confident the unit and its trainees will continue to thrive.

In the last 47 weeks since dealing with the pandemic, MEDCoE has graduated more than 18,000 students in nearly 800 courses. These are doctors, nurses, combat medics, physician assistants, respiratory therapists and other medical personnel who may soon find themselves on the frontlines of the pandemic.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fifth Army's 92nd ID only full division with Buffalo Soldiers in WWII European Theater

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In honor of Black History Month, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) recognizes the 92nd Infantry Division (Buffalo) as the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe during World War II, fighting in the Italian Campaign.

Activated Oct. 15, 1942, at Fort McClellan, Alabama, the 92nd ID was made up of primarily white officers and African American enlisted personnel and was one of three segregated African-American divisions, referred to as Colored Troops, activated during World War II, according to the U. S. Army Military History Institute. Only the 92nd served as a full division in combat.

After spending more than a year training together at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, the division of "Buffalo Soldiers" deployed to Italy in the fall of 1944, assigned to Fifth Army and joining the continued assault toward the Alps after the fall of Rome.

On Oct. 19 of that year, a rendezvous area near Leghorn, Italy, was designated for most of the arriving 92nd ID elements. By that time, Task Force 92 was already attacking up the Ligurian coast of Italy as part of the Fifth Army assault on the Gothic Line.

The next five months of difficult fighting in the Northern Apennines and Italian Alps identified some genuine heroes in the 92nd ID and the strength of the men of that fighting force.

From August 1944 through the end of the war in May 1945, the division advanced more than 3,000 square miles and captured more than 20,000 German prisoners, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA.

They also suffered casualties in the thousands.

For their accomplishments, the 92nd earned more than 12,000 decorations and citations, including two Medals of Honor, according to the 92nd Infantry Division's World War II association.

Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Vernon Baker was one of those recognized for his actions with the 92nd ID.

On April 5, 1945, Baker's unit was ordered to assault the mountain stronghold of Viareggio, Italy.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, on April 5-6, 1945, then-2nd Lt. Baker demonstrated outstanding courage and leadership in destroying enemy installations, personnel and equipment. When his company was stopped by the concentration of fire from several machine gun emplacements, he crawled to one position and destroyed it, killing three Germans. Continuing forward, he attacked an enemy observation post and killed two occupants.

With the aid of one of his men, Baker attacked two more machine gun nests, killing or wounding four enemy soldiers. He then covered the evacuation of the wounded personnel of his company by occupying an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire.

On the following night, Baker voluntarily led a battalion advance through enemy mine fields and heavy fire toward the division objective.

The other Medal of Honor recipient from the division was 1st Lt. John R. Fox, who distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism at the risk of his own life on Dec. 26, 1944, in the Serchio River Valley Sector of Italy.

Fox served as a forward



COURTESY PHOTOS

Activated Oct. 15, 1942, at Fort McClellan, Alabama, the 92nd ID was made up of primarily white officers and African American enlisted personnel and was one of three segregated African-American divisions, referred to as Colored Troops, which were activated during World War II.

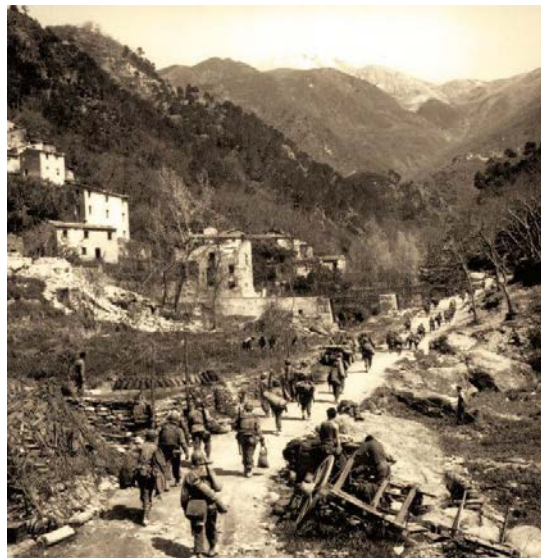
observer for his division and the 598th Field Artillery Battalion, and gave his life to delay German advances.

After the war, 53 men from the 92nd were still unaccounted for, and in 2014, DPAA started the 92nd Infantry Project in an attempt to account for the missing.

The greatest challenge in accounting for the missing isn't lack of information or the ability to correlate remains buried as unknowns, but not having the necessary DNA family reference samples for comparison in order to make an identification.

The DPAA encourages any family members of men unaccounted for from the 92nd Infantry Division to contact the Army Casualty Office at 800-892-2490 and arrange to submit a DNA sample.

Learn more about the 92nd ID at: https://www.army.mil/article/46649/bring_on_the_buffalo.



The "Doughfoots" of the 92nd Infantry Division pursue the retreating Germans through the Po Valley in May 1945.

Former burn patient donates artwork to USAISR Burn Center

By Dr. Steven Galvan

U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL
RESEARCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A burn patient and local artist showed her appreciation for the care she received at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston by donating an art piece she created.

Michelle Delgado, also known as “Shelly VibesArt,” is a 24-year-old local artist whose 23-by-28-inch loose canvas creation features a combination of acrylic-painted flames and a collage of compression gloves treated with resin.

The gloves are the ones she wore during her recovery to reduce swelling and compress scarring. Delgado framed the art and hung it on a piece of scavenged wood.

“I wanted to give this painting to the burn center staff as a token of my gratitude,” Delgado said. “I am very thankful for the help I received from the staff.

Without them, I wouldn’t know how to properly care for my burns, something I will have to do for the rest of my life.”

Delgado burned her hands early one morning in August 2020 while working in her studio. She received second-degree burns from a mishap that took place while she was pouring scented oil into a candle.

“I was unaware the candle oil had alcohol in it,” she said. “The extremely hot liquid splashed on the top of my hands and gave me second-degree burns.”

After a long evaluation at a local hospital, Delgado was referred to the USAISR Burn Center for definitive care.

“To make a long story short, the traumatizing experience of injuring my hands, these beautiful tools I’ve been given that impacts my everyday life and my career as an artist, compelled me so much to create a painting-interactive piece that plays an homage to the experience I went through,” Delgado added.



DR. STEVEN GALVAN

Col. (Dr.) Mark Stackle (left), U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research commander, and Dr. Leopoldo “Lee” Cancio (right), USAISR Burn Center director, accept a piece of artwork Feb. 10 from Michelle Delgado, a burn patient and local artist, as a token of her appreciation for the care she received there.

Col. (Dr.) Mark Stackle, USAISR Commander, and Dr. Leopoldo “Lee” Cancio, Burn Center Director, accepted the gift during a small ceremony at the burn center.

“It is a tremendous privilege for us to have you, an artist of your caliber, to think of us and to come back and give

back,” Stackle said. “It’s good for the entire burn center staff to see how far you’ve come and this opportunity means a lot to our entire organization.”

Cancio also expressed gratitude for the artwork and pointed out that it was, in many ways, symbolic of Delgado’s transformation.

“What it means to me is that as clinicians, we’re involved in transformation. When we see patients, oftentimes they come to us at a low point, a difficult point after a significant injury, potentially a life-altering injury and our job is to get them better,” Cancio said.

“But we’re only part of the equation. The other part is the patient, family and friends, and what the patient, family and friends bring to this is transformation,” he added. “To me, the art symbolizes transformation: it means something about taking an injury and overcoming it. To me, this means getting beyond your injury to something new, and in this case something beautiful.”

“I am forever grateful for the care that I received by the staff at the burn center,” Delgado said. “My hands are a gift, they are my tools. Thanks to the staff, I can properly care for my hands and thankfully, my burns are healing nicely and I have been back in the studio working every day.”

ARNORTH will oversee military support to FEMA in California

By U.S. Army North
Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 222 Soldiers from Fort Carson, Colorado, will deploy to Los Angeles, California, to support a state-run, federally supported COVID-19 vaccination center there.

U.S. Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command, or JFLCC, of U.S. Northern Command, will oversee the military COVID-19 response operation in support of state and federal vaccination efforts.

“Getting shots — vaccinations — in people’s arms is the mission,” said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson,

ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. “And this team, on behalf of the governor and state, has the ability to get thousands of more people vaccinated every day.”

The 222-member team, which will begin supporting FEMA’s California State University Los Angeles vaccination center, is one of five teams Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III approved Feb. 4 to support FEMA, the lead federal agency for the whole-of-government response.

The team, which is under the immediate command and control of Fort Carson’s 299th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is comprised primarily of



TECH. SGT. ENJOLI SAUNDERS

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 222 Soldiers from Fort Carson, Colorado, will deploy to Los Angeles, California, to support a state-run, federally supported COVID-19 vaccination center there.

vaccinators, registered nurses and other medical personnel from the Colorado base.

Army North’s Joint Task

Force 46, formed primarily by the Michigan Army National Guard’s 46th Military Police Command, will serve as an intermediate headquarters between the Fort Carson team and the JFLCC.

Additionally, the task force continues to manage, on behalf of the JFLCC, 355 military medical personnel from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, who are providing ongoing medical support to 14 hospitals in 13 cities within California, Arizona, Texas, and the Navajo Nation.

In addition to TF 46, the JFLCC will work closely with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey D. Smiley, California Military Department Joint Staff director and the dual-status

commander for the state’s military COVID-19 response.

A dual-status commander is typically appointed in large, complex stateside missions or response efforts involving both National Guard members in state, or Title 32 status, and other service members in federal, or Title 10 status. The dual-status commander has command authority over both elements and is simultaneously a member of the state chain of command and the federal chain of command.

“While a chain of command will always exist in the military, make no mistake, we are not in charge here,” Richardson said. “This is a state-run, federally-supported site.”

JBSA contributes to improving regional air quality

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air quality may not be something you think about daily, but it is vastly important to everyone's health and safety and requires multiple efforts to ensure it is a priority, particularly in the Alamo Region and at Joint Base San Antonio.

According to recent data, Bexar County, which includes JBSA, is in exceedance of ground-level ozone standards, the most common form of air pollution in the region, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA.

According to the EPA, ground-level ozone forms when nitrogen oxides, like those from burning fossil fuels in combustion engines, combine with volatile organic compounds in the air and sunlight to make ozone.

"Sunlight causes chemicals from the fuels we burn, gasoline and diesel, and vapors from such products as gasoline and paint solvents to react together and form ozone," according to the Alamo Area Council of Governments, or AACOG, Natural Resources Department at: <https://www.aacog.com/97/Air-Quality--Natural-Resources>.

The work toward correcting the issue will involve effort by everyone in the region, including JBSA, the Department of Defense's largest joint base, which already has multiple initiatives in place to assist in lowering emissions in the region. These include the utilization of alternative fuel vehicles and enacting policies to help limit emissions from things like vehicle idling.

"Vehicle Management across the Air Force is mandated to always lean toward purchasing alternative fuel, low greenhouse gas non-tactical vehicles for our daily transportation movement," said Dennis



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Vehicle Management across the Air Force is mandated to always lean toward purchasing alternative fuel, low greenhouse gas non-tactical vehicles for daily transportation movement.

Stewart, chief of Fuels and property administrator at JBSA-Randolph.

Currently on JBSA, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's vehicle fleet is 21.9 percent alternative fuel vehicles, JBSA-Lackland's fleet is 15 percent, and JBSA-Randolph's fleet is 34.4 percent.

"While these percentages may look uncommonly low, they are due to JBSA being the largest Air Force training base," said Master Sgt. Thomas Ocampo, 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle fleet manager.

"Most of our vehicles are assigned to field training, which require specific type vehicles which are not manufactured to use alternative fuel," he said, adding that the majority of alternative fuel vehicles are normally light-duty vehicles, like sedans, minivans to 15-passenger vans and three passenger pickup trucks.

Currently, JBSA has 129 E-85 use vehicles; 99 hybrid sedans; 306 dual fuel vehicles which can utilize gas or E-85; 24 electric forklifts; and 42 other electric vehicles, water buffalo, semi-vans or trailers, Ocampo said.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 also states, if alternative fuel is available for an Air Force owned, rented or leased alternate fueled vehicle from a commercial vendor fuel station or another agency, then alternative fuel will be used 100 percent of the time, Ocampo said.

The remaining fleet category includes vehicles manufactured for regular gasoline or diesel fuel because they do not come as alternative fuel due to the nature of their constructed use, Ocampo said, adding that some vehicles on JBSA are unable to utilize alternative fuels because they are deployable and must be capable of meeting worldwide mission requirements.

While the Energy Policy Act of 1992 exempts most law enforcement vehicles, emergency vehicles and vehicles used for military purposes, JBSA emergency diesel vehicles do utilize diesel exhaust fluid, or DEF, which eliminates harmful emissions from these vehicles, as required, according to Mike Pena, vehicle control officer for JBSA Fire and Emergency Services.

Diesel exhaust fluid is a

non-hazardous solution which is sprayed into the exhaust stream of diesel vehicles to break down dangerous emissions into harmless nitrogen and water, he said.

Vehicle idling restrictions have also been enacted to help curb harmful emissions in Texas and at JBSA.

In an effort to assist with Texas' rules on vehicle idling, Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, signed a policy reiterating the requirement to limit the use of vehicle idling as pertaining to government motor vehicles.

In accordance with Texas code, no person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle to idle for more than five consecutive minutes when the motor vehicle is not in motion.

"Due to this state law, all operators of Government and GSA vehicles will be limited to standing idle times of five minutes or less," according to the JBSA policy. An exception, in light of the number of trainees transported on JBSA, buses are permitted to idle for

20 minutes prior to dispatch in order to run the air conditioner or heater under extreme hot or cold weather conditions. Rapid response vehicles, law enforcement or ambulatory services vehicles are exempt when responding to emergencies or in the direct performance of traffic stops, speed control, or for patient recovery and comfort during summer and winter months.

Additional ways most anyone can assist in lowering emissions, according to AACOG, include:

- Limit driving by utilizing carpools, use mass transit, teleconference, walk, ride a bike, and use online services such as electronic banking;
- Operate your vehicle properly: avoid jack rabbit starts and drive the speed limit;
- Reduce engine idling by avoiding drive through lanes.
- When you see an AACOG Air Quality Health Alert, consider alternate means of travel. Sign up for alerts at: <https://www.aacog.com/Faq.aspx?QID=67>.

Area residents may visit the AirNow.gov website for current air quality conditions in San Antonio and Bexar County.

Brazilian, U.S. military leaders emphasize partnerships at JRTC

By Donald Sparks

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During World War II, Brazil was the only South American country to contribute troops to the allied cause, and 75 years later, the Brazilian Army made its mark again with U.S. forces as the first South American company-sized element to train at the Joint Readiness Training Center, or JRTC.

Senior U.S. military leaders including Adm. Craig S. Fallor, U.S. Southern Command commander, Gen. Michael X. Garrett, U.S. Army Forces Command commander, Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, U.S. Army South commander, and Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, 82nd Airborne Division commander, met senior Brazilian military leaders Feb. 1-2 at JRTC at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and conducted key leader engagements marking the significance of the bilateral training exercise.

"This Brazilian airborne company presence and participation in one of the Army's combat training centers represents the first time we've had a partner army from South America participate in one of these rotations," Walrath said. "This is a continuation of 75 years of history together already, certainly a historic milestone, we see as just a continuation of our ever-increasing partnership."

The Brazilian Army, or Exército Brasileiro, or EB, participation in JRTC is the culminating event of a five-year plan developed between the EB and U.S. Army South during the Army-to-Army Staff Talks. The Staff Talks Program promotes bilateral efforts in order to develop professional partnerships and increase interaction between partner nation armies.

"I am proud of Army South's

and the Brazilian Army's long term commitment to coordinating and preparing for this exercise over the last four years," Walrath said. "I am also proud to see our Brazilian Army partners achieve the first-time participation by a South American army at a U.S. combat training center."

Brazilian military leaders received a JRTC mission and capabilities briefing, an aerial tour of the training area known as "the box," where Soldiers are exposed to conditions and situations to fight an opposing force, and they observed a nighttime static-line airborne operation by the 82nd Airborne Division into the training area.

"The training environment at the JRTC is unmatched by any other country's training center — the only thing more difficult is actual combat," Walrath said. "Partnership with the U.S. Army provides the best opportunities to increase readiness and interoperability to address shared security challenges."

In solidifying the partnership between Army South and the Brazilian Army, Walrath and Lt. Gen. Marcos de Sá Afonso da Costa, chief of training, Land Forces Training Command, Exército Brasileiro, signed a technical agreement (a non-binding arrangement) that outlines duties and responsibilities of participating units throughout the duration of the JRTC rotation.

"First, our participation rescues the history and traditions of parachutists in Brazil, as it was here (United States) that our pioneers came in the 1940s during World War II to learn about airborne techniques and introduce airborne activity in Brazil," da Costa said. "The return of the parachutists to the United States, here at JRTC, is undoubtedly a milestone for



DONALD SPARKS

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath (right), U.S. Army South commanding general, greets a Brazilian Army soldier who is taking part in the bilateral training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Feb. 2. Lt. Gen. Marcos de Sá Afonso da Costa (center), chief of training, Land Forces Training Command, Exército Brasileiro, looks on.

the Brazilian Army."

Da Costa mentioned it is worth noting that Brazil is a major non-NATO ally, and its participation in intense multinational combined exercises that simulate combat is very important to his nation's Army.

"The exchange with the U.S. Army provides us a great opportunity to learn lessons useful for doctrine evolution, and an opportunity to evaluate the degree of operational preparation of our troops - their discipline and motivation, in addition to the capabilities of our staffs and the leadership of our commanders," da Costa said. "It is also a time for us to evaluate the military material we use in operations."

Over the past five years, Army South executed a series of subject matter expert exchanges and planning meetings to help prepare the EB for the rotation during U.S. and Brazil army-to-army staff talks.

"Although the rotation is the culmination of the five-year plan, it is not the culmination of our cooperation with them," said Sam Prugh, Army South, Security Cooperation Division deputy. "This rotation represents the first in a series of bi-annual combat training center rotations that the EB is planning, with the next one scheduled for 2022 with the 101st Airborne Division and the EB 12th Infantry Brigade (AASLT)."

Prugh mentioned the rotation represents the first exchange of units with the U.S. Army preparing to send a company from the 101st Airborne Division to train in November 2021 as part of Southern Vanguard — an exercise to produce readiness and security cooperation within the Western Hemisphere.

"Our goal would be regular or routine training exchanges; that in each time we come together and train, whether in the United States or Brazil; that we continue to elevate the complexity and challenges of the training events," Walrath said. "Each time the training becomes more difficult and more challenging, but each time it's strengthening our relationship after each event. The goal is interoperability."

"We look forward to making training exchanges with the Brazilian Army — both at U.S. training centers and in Brazil — occur on a routine basis."

As the training opportunities between the U.S. and Brazil expand in the future, da Costa is optimistic the bilateral events will forge the friendship between the two armies.

"We expect to continue seeing Brazilian and American soldiers together in high-intensity exercises, facing on equal terms the most rigorous simulated combat conditions, both in the U.S. and in Brazil, as scheduled for the year 2021 and beyond," da Costa said. "I am sure that this exchange will visibly enhance quality in the preparation of Brazilian Army troops. We firmly believe in the benefits of this increase in troop training exchanges, and know that our partners in the U.S. Armed Forces, through the Southern Command and, in particular, Army South, have the same opinion."

LACKLAND

Emergency Operations Center continues coordinating JBSA's COVID-19 response

By Rachel Kersey
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's been one year. The world has been in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic and Joint Base San Antonio is no exception.

A team of dedicated professionals has been on duty protecting military service members and their families and, ultimately, the entire United States.

"The Emergency Operations Center was activated on Feb. 2, 2020, to support the operation that was coming our way from the Department of Health and Human Services for the evacuation and repatriation of the Americans in Wuhan, China," said Lt. Col. Joseph Tortella, EOC director and commander of the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron at JBSA-Lackland. "They were coming here to quarantine upon return to the United States. We provided them with the space on the installation to be able to do that."

They thought this would be a two-week mission, but then the incident with the cruise ship outbreak happened and then there was another cruise ship. Soon there were reports of infections on American soil, even in San Antonio. It quickly became an around-the-clock mission requiring all hands on deck. From winter to early summer, the EOC was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The EOC played a major role in establishing the posture for the entire installation and how we would respond to COVID-19 as the pandemic

evolved. We shifted our focus to protecting and responding here in San Antonio, in Texas, and across the United States," Tortella said. "In any type of crisis, natural disaster, or other emergency type situation, the EOC is available to effectively provide support. It's a picnic basket of many agencies across the installation."

One such agency is the 502nd Force Support Squadron.

"We provided emergency assistance, child care, lodging, mail processing, feeding, Morale, Welfare & Recreation services, and coordinated bed-down, housing and human services capabilities," said Gerald Gooding, 502nd FSS operations officer at JBSA-Lackland. "We put in place a comprehensive plan to support 10 major commands, 266 mission partners, and 666,749 personnel through the implementation of facility and lodging sanitization, distribution of critical personal protective equipment, delivery of thousands of meals and coordination on installation-wide public health guidance."

The EOC — in conjunction with the Crisis Action Team — acted as overhead leadership, providing supervision and information on everything from identifying locations for quarantine to finding ways to support trainees, active duty service members, beneficiaries and retirees.

"The team was all-in making sure the installation was prepared, and they took a lot of pride in it," Tortella explained. "They effectively were given the responsibility to build the



Members of the Joint Base San Antonio Emergency Operations Center perform their duties Feb. 11 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

continuing operations and the plan that was used as a benchmark for Air Education and Training Command and the Air Force, and arguably the Department of Defense. Because we were given the opportunity to partner with the Department of Health and Human Services, we learned a lot from how they ran their operation, which we were then able to share with our partners across the globe as they were fighting the same fight."

After DHHS provided the blueprint for the operation, FSS and other agencies were the boots on the ground putting into practice EOC priorities installation-wide.

Those priorities included opening two additional child development centers to fortify child care support for 13 wings and 266 mission partners, maintaining Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols to

safeguard more than 30,000 military families, advancing educational outreach, and collaborating with several other organizations on a food drive that brought \$60,000 worth of produce to enlisted families were just a handful of the many tasks FSS took on this last year.

"We powered through the COVID-19 pandemic, performing more than 400 extended hours," Gooding said. "There was no mission degradation, despite the challenges."

And the challenges were many.

"We had no idea where the finish line was or how long it was going to be, so there was a lot of learning from experience and failure," Tortella said. "We were building the plane as we flew it. We weren't familiar with this operation. There were days where some of us were working 20-hour days

and not in a place where we could get home and see our families because everything was so new and it was moving so fast. A lot of us just never truly recognized the threat of a foreign disease."

Tortella and Gooding have learned many lessons, which they hope will help Americans in the future.

"I think what we'll take away from this is that we can do things differently. Teleworking is one of the prime examples that folks will go to when thinking about what we had to do differently in order to not compromise the U.S. Air Force, and that is not downplaying it or overplaying it," Tortella said. "If we didn't adjust business, our Air Force would not be what it is today, and everybody across the country had to do this. You had to figure out how to do it differently, or you just wouldn't survive."

He predicts this will spark innovation and thinking outside the box. Gooding agrees.

"Community services and resiliency have never been more important and we have a myriad of folks counting on us," Gooding said. "In this environment, we have to have open communication, a Plan B, be innovative and understand that ingenuity wins."

But for every pioneering decision these teams have had to make, sometimes it's a return to basics that can make such a big difference.

"You can never wash your hands enough," Tortella said with a laugh. "And you gotta appreciate people's personal space."

SAMHS MEMBERS VACCINATE BENEFICIARIES 75 AND OLDER

Maj. Carla Cox, 59th Medical Wing commander's executive officer, vaccinates a San Antonio Military Health System beneficiary, Feb. 6 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Warrior medics from the 59th Medical Wing were out Feb. 6 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, working tirelessly to vaccinate the local 75-plus-age population. For more information on what tier the San Antonio Military Health System is currently vaccinating, please visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus>.



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

New hairstyle options now available for female Airmen

By Joe Gangemi

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Female Airmen have new hairstyle options as of Feb. 10, and Basic Military Training instructors are ready to demonstrate and enforce the new hair standards.

Military Training Instructor Master Sgt. Raquel Sanchez understands some Airmen may have difficulty adjusting to the changes, but fortunately, she'll be instructing new trainees who she believes will benefit from the modifications.

"I've been in the Air Force for 14 years, so I'm used to putting my hair up in a bun," Sanchez said. But Sanchez has encountered trainees who have struggled to groom their hair (within standards) due to lack of experience and skills or having headaches and migraines.

"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



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Upon publication of the new standards in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Feb. 10, female Airmen 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.

our diverse force," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass said in a January article with

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs. "I am pleased we could make this important change for our

women service members."

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance, now defines how Air Force women may wear their hair in two braids or a single ponytail, with some restrictions. What may be most visibly notable about the new hair instruction is women's braids and ponytails can extend below the uniform collar.

"Personally I don't see myself wearing this new hairstyle when in OCP or service blues," Sanchez stated.

But she says she anticipates incoming trainees will easily adapt to this change. By embracing the new standards, while still recommending the prior grooming standards, presents more options for a professional appearance.

The changes resulted from a crowdsourcing campaign that included initiatives from the Air Force uniform board, the Air Force Women's Initiative Team and thousands of diverse Airmen of all ranks.

Smart locker idea wins AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo

By Shannon Carabajal

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An idea for a smart locker mail system in base dorms won the 2021 Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Innovation Rodeo Feb. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Airman 1st Class Ricardo “Noah” Morales, an E8-C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System journeyman with the 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, will receive a share of \$1 million in funding from AFIMSC to develop his idea for potential implementation across the Air Force and Department of Defense.

“We have seen so many good ideas today. The amount of work our finalists put into these presentations and put into this work over the last few months is absolutely amazing and it really shined through today,” said Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, AFIMSC commander, as he announced winners of the third annual event designed to identify and fund top installation and mission support innovations.

Morales came up with the idea for smart lockers after joining the Air Force and realizing the service lacked package pickup and delivery options for Airmen living in base dorms. Because of work schedules, mail processing time and limited post office hours, he said Airmen sometimes wait several days to get their mail and packages.

“I wondered, ‘why we don’t bring this technology to the Air Force since it is an already proven solution in the commercial sector?’” he said.

A state of the art, secure mail locker system in the dorms is a simple way for the Air Force to boost the quality of life for Airmen, he explained. The system would benefit the installation postal operations as



DEBBIE ARAGON

Airman 1st Class Ricardo “Noah” Morales presents an idea for a smart locker system to senior leaders during the 2021 Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Innovation Rodeo, Feb. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Morales won first place in the event, earning a share of \$1 million in funding and resources to pursue his idea. He is an E8-C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, journeyman with the 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

well because it can free up space and improve mailroom-processing times.

Morales’ idea and commitment to making a change impressed the entire panel of senior installation and mission support leaders, including Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Ludwigsen, AFIMSC command chief master sergeant.

“I’m proud of you,” he told Morales during the award presentation. “You saw a problem, you thought of a solution and you went out there and found an avenue to get after it and that’s what we need. You are our future and our future is bright with Airmen like you. Thank you for what you’ve done and congratulations.”

With a theme of “Base of the Future,” this year’s innovation rodeo gave Airmen a chance to

help shape how installations can look and function in the future.

Conducted virtually due to COVID-19, eight finalists spent a week learning from leading innovators and honing their pitches before trying to convince a panel of five senior Air Force installation and mission support leaders that their idea was the best.

Other 2021 Innovation Rodeo winners are:

Second Place: Auto-Ping - DBIDS scanner, Staff Sgt. Jordan Varnier, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Varnier’s idea for an executable script for Microsoft PowerShell sends a ping - test packets of data - to DBIDS scanners to determine whether they are online or offline. The script allows a base security officer to determine if there are any offline scanners

without traveling to each entry control point.

Third Place: 3D Interior Scanner, Master Sgt. Luke Rogan, Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Scott McClure, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Capt. Nathanael Kohl, JBER. The team’s idea involves a multi-phase strategic plan for modeling Air Force facilities in 3D. Using modern tools, the Air Force can establish a library of accurate 3D real property files at a fraction of current costs and labor hours.

In addition to naming the top three winners, Wilcox had a surprise announcement for all finalists.

“You are all winners today because I’m going to put money to all eight of your ideas. AFIMSC is giving at least \$50,000 to each one of your

ideas to push them to the next level, to scale them, to make them right,” he said.

In addition to funding, finalists will receive support from the AFIMSC Ventures office which is uniquely positioned to help Airmen and Guardians develop, fund and implement an execution strategy for their ideas, said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer.

“Since our office stood up in November 2018, we’ve helped installation and mission support Airmen land more than \$70 million for their ideas,” he said. “We’ve connected innovative Airmen and Guardians with Department of Defense and industry partners to help develop and implement their ideas and we can’t wait to get started with these finalists.”

RANDOLPH

JBSA fire services wins three AETC awards

By Staff Sgt. Preston Cherry

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio's Fire and Emergency Services, or FES, 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron, and two of its members were announced as the Air Education and Training Command nominees for the Air Force FES Awards Feb. 3.

The nominees competed with other units from across AETC on their performance in 2020.

"It has always been amazing to watch the team navigate the challenges here at the best joint base in the Department of Defense," said Mark Ledford, JBSA 902nd CES fire chief. "This past year has been even more impressive as our team didn't skip a beat, in spite of the incredible challenges to maintain a consistent and robust 24/7 posture in a COVID-19 environment."

Each fall, all DOD fire departments have an opportunity to submit packages in award categories to include small, medium, and large fire departments of the year, as well as fire instructor, firefighter, fire prevention, and others. These packages are then forwarded to that department's organizational command.

At the major command level, packages are scored by at least three judges who rate the submissions from each of the nominated departments.

The JBSA 902nd FES awards and winners included:

► AETC Chief Master Sgt.

Ralph E. Sanborn Fire Department of the Year 2020-Large: JBSA 902nd CES FES;

► AETC Military Firefighter of the Year 2020: Airman 1st Class Sequento Marks, 902nd CES firefighter;

► AETC Civilian Firefighter of



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Firefighters with Joint Base San Antonio extinguish an isolated fire during a live fire Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting training Nov. 20, 2020, at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Annex.



SABRINA FINE

Firefighters from the 902nd Civil Engineer Squadron participate in a demonstration during fire prevention week open house Oct. 12, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio.

the Year 2020: Samario Davis, 902nd CES firefighter.

"At all levels, the team is razor-focused on our mission to protect lives, property and the

environment, and every day they prove they are ready," Ledford said.

The individuals recognized in the firefighter of the year

categories were recognized for their work performance and ability to inspire others.

"Senior Airman Marks has been stellar since he walked in the door from our fire academy in November 2019," said Bob Ashley, JBSA 902nd CES deputy fire chief. "He immediately and constantly displayed a 'can-do' attitude and impacted everyone around him. He has excelled at every aspect of his job and upgrade training. His positive impact on our people and our mission is immeasurable."

Marks attributed his award to those he works with.

"I am merely a reflection of the men and women at Station 8," Marks said. "The personnel we have possess qualities like compassion, resilience, selflessness, empathy, and so much more. We've dedicated our lives to serving others, and I think that same support that we

"At all levels, the team is razor-focused on our mission to protect lives, property and the environment, and every day they prove they are ready."

**Mark Ledford,
JBSA 902nd
Civil Engineer Squadron
fire chief**

provide is inevitably being returned."

Davis also spoke highly of his coworkers, and he said their mission is successful due to teamwork.

"Because of our togetherness, when it's time to save lives, we're able to move as a cohesive unit and work together to get the job done with excellence," he said. "I'm honored to be a part of this amazing team and to serve our community in the manner that we do."

Next, the three packages will compete at the Air Force level. If they move further, the final judging will take place at the DOD level.

All members of JBSA's Fire and Emergency Services are committed to what matters most.

"The recognition is wonderful, and we humbly accept the award, but the goal remains the same; to protect lives, property and the environment," Marks said. "There's no time to let up. We strive for the best, always."

Ready to level up? Air Force offers civilians programs to earn degree

By Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs

In addition to the Civilian Tuition Assistance Program, the Department of the Air Force offers three academic programs for Air Force and Space Force civilians to enhance their level of education.

The programs are the Civilian Associate Degree Program, the Bachelor's Degree Program, and the Master's Degree Program. Applications are being accepted through the Academic Year 2022 Civilian Developmental Education call through Feb. 26.

CADP offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Air Force Leadership and Management Studies.

"The program is a great opportunity for civilian Airmen and Guardians to improve their skills in areas critical for the work center, such as team building, problem solving, followership, leadership, conflict resolution, and professionalism," said Troy Belyeu, CADP program manager.

CADP is open to all permanent, full-time, appropriated fund Air Force and Space Force civilians, including federal wage grade employees. To be eligible, applicants may have some college credit but cannot have been awarded a post-secondary degree from a regionally accredited two or four-year college or university.

As the newest addition to the academic/fellowship portfolio, the Bachelor's Degree Program presents applicants the opportunity to attain a bachelor's degree in their career specialty to support current and future needs of the department. Additionally, career field and developmental teams may approve technical and functional degree programs related to an applicant's occupational series.

Applicants must have an associate's degree or no more than two years remaining in their degree plan. The Bachelor's Degree Program is open to permanent full-time appropriated fund Air Force and Space Force civilians between the grades of GS-12 through GS-15 or equivalent. If selected for this program, selectees must



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Eligible Air and Space Force civilians are encouraged to submit their applications by Feb. 26 via MyVECTOR at <https://MyVECTOR.us.af.mil/MyVECTOR>. Google Chrome is the recommended browser to register and access your account.

apply and be accepted by an accredited university or college, preferably in their local area.

The Master's Degree Program offers GS-12 through GS-15 or equivalent civilians the opportunity to attain a Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, or Master of Public Policy degree from an accredited university or college.

"Like the Bachelor's Degree Program, applicants are encouraged to select a school in the local area," said Brian Cyr, Bachelor's and Master's degrees program manager. "However, the Master's Degree Program does not allow technical degrees, executive MBAs, or online or weekend programs, because the intent is to develop leadership competencies relevant in all functional areas."

For all three programs, applicants must have a minimum of two years of federal civil service by

March 13, 2021. Applicants should note that CADP is an online degree program, and the BA and Master's Degree programs are in-residence only.

Eligible Air and Space Force civilians are encouraged to submit their applications by Feb. 26 via MyVECTOR at <https://MyVECTOR.us.af.mil/MyVECTOR>. Google Chrome is the recommended browser to register and access your account.

For more information on eligibility requirements and full program details for these academic programs, visit the myPers Civilian Force Development Academic/Fellowship website at https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/41798/p/2/c/549 or contact the AFPC Leadership Development Office at afpc.civiliandevelopment.cde@us.af.mil.

Air Force Wounded Warrior Program hosts first-ever virtual open house

By Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program hosted its first-ever Virtual Open House to kick off the New Year. During this two-day event, attendees learned about all of the programs within AFW2 that are available for Warriors, caregivers and their families.

This event allowed for every program to briefly discuss their mission, goals and provide testimonies from

those who are enrolled. The programs included Caregivers, Community Programs, Adaptive Sports, Ambassador and Outreach, Recovering Airman Mentorship (RAMP), Wellness and Resiliency (WAR) and Empowerment in Transition (EIT).

"The idea of an open house came from a Warrior and allowed AFW2 staff to connect with Warriors, and their families, interested in learning more about the programs, services and workshops offered," said Michelle Shope,

AFW2 Event Management and Operations. "This virtual platform provided opportunities for Warriors to discover, and continue, using AFW2 support in their recovery process."

The first step in the recovery process is to get in touch with a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) within the Warrior's region. From there, the RCC works with the Warrior to discuss their diagnosis and what programs will benefit them the most on their journey. RCC's set the

tone for a Warrior's perception of the AFW2 program.

"I was a mess of a person when I sat down with Jeff Maberry, my RCC at Eglin Air Force Base," said Master Sgt. Shannon Cassinelli, AFW2 Warrior. "He sat down with me, helped me unload all of my baggage and discussed everything the program could do for me. He was the first person to reignite that little glimmer of hope I had lost over the years."

Once a connection is made with an RCC, so many doors

open for our Warriors, their caregivers and families. This open house allowed those who attended to get a front-row seat to understanding each program and how it can benefit them on their individual journey.

To hear testimonies from Warriors and Caregivers and to know what events are coming up please follow our social media pages. To refer an Airman and learn more about each program please visit our website at www.woundedwarrior.af.mil.

Explore ‘Next Gen Debrief,’ innovation on ‘The Air Force Starts Here’ podcast

By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

A deep dive into innovation through the lens of a Spark Tank submission called “Next Gen Debrief” is the focus of the latest episode of “The Air Force Starts Here,” released Feb. 9.

Dan Hawkins from the Air Education and Training Command public affairs team spoke virtually with Maj. Kevin Hawkins and 1st Lt. Adam Treece from the 56th Operational Support Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, who along with Dylan Kerr, a student at Arizona State University, about their creation of a 3-D augmented reality system that will revolutionize the way pilots conduct mission debriefs.

Modernizing the Air and Space Forces is a priority for the Air Force and aggressively and cost-effectively modernizing education and training to transform the way Airmen learn is one of AETC’s top priorities. As part of AETC’s team that will represent the command at Spark Tank 2021 coming

up Feb. 24-26 during the virtual Air Force Association Aerospace Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida. Hawkins and Treece talk about how they adapted Microsoft HoloLens2 smart-glasses into a tool that aircrews can use to conduct detailed mission debriefs from an interactive, three-dimensional perspective.

Treece also talks about how the Spark Tank competition is a huge part of how the command values innovation and operationalizing Airmen’s best ideas to improve operations.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help communicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development fields and can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website, DVIDS, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Play. Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including force development and much more.



COURTESY GRAPHIC