

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 26, 2021



PHOTO BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Airmen and Army Soldiers unload pallets of bottled water Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field.

502nd LRS assists with emergency response after winter storms in Texas

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BAMC personnel power through record-breaking winter storms

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Teams protect scores of MWDs from severe temperatures

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Commentary: Black History Month, A reflection of African-American History

By Col. George R. Farfour

DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY

February, as Black History Month, is a time to reflect on the contributions of African-Americans to our country. Though no single article can adequately cover African-American history justly, there are few areas that can rival the vast participation of African-Americans in war.

African-Americans came to the aid of their country every time it called. From the foundations of independence to the sands of Iraq, African-American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardians have demonstrated they too have a fierce love of country and a stubborn fortitude to succeed in battle.

African-Americans stand proud in our fighting history and deserve their rightful place in the study of that history.

From Crispus Attucks, who was killed by British soldiers during the Boston Massacre in 1770, to the freed and escaped slaves of the Civil War, through the Buffalo soldiers of Wild West to the Tuskegee Airman and right up to today, there has been no shortage of African-American patriots. Here are remembrances of just a few.

The 10th U.S. Cavalry, a Buffalo Soldier unit was deployed to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The 10th Cavalry became famous for having five African-American soldiers receive Medals of Honor. In doing so, the 10th Cavalry wrote its heroics in blood. One soldier, Edward L. Barker, Jr., even rose to the rank of captain, an extremely rare event for the day.

The 369th Infantry Regiment, an African-American New York National Guard unit known as the “Black Rattlers” fought in World War I under the French 4th Army and achieved amazing battlefield successes.

Despite the obvious racial prejudices of the time, they earned an impressive number of awards for valor receiving more than 171 decorations. The entire regiment received France’s prestigious Croix de Guerre. While they still had to ride on the back of the bus, their heroics were so well-known that they received the unprecedented honor of leading the New York City World War I victory parade.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

And the Germans, recognizing the amazing tenacity of their enemy, gave them the nickname of “Harlem Hell-fighters.”

World War II brought forth another wave of distinguished African-American patriots. On the USS West Virginia, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Doris Miller, a cook, was up early Dec. 7, 1941. As he served breakfast, explosions rocked the mighty ship and he went to the upper deck. Seeing flames, chaos and death, Miller first aided his wounded commanding officer, taking him to safety. Then he took up a station at one of the many unmanned machine guns and began firing.

Although he was trained only as a cook with no instruction in the use of the automatic weapon, Miller reportedly downed two Japanese aircraft before the attacks stopped. He never left his post during the hours of the attack, a post he assumed out of necessity. The commander of the Pacific Fleet, Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz, personally presented Miller with the Navy Cross, an award for valor second only to the Medal of Honor.

Brig. Gen. Charles McGhee, recently promoted and honored by the President in a State of the Union speech, also gives us an enduring lesson in fortitude to the mission. After endless attempts to downplay their abilities, the Tuskegee Airmen were finally placed in combat with a single mission — escort and protect bombers of the German strategic bombing offensive.

When asked why he had never become an ace — shooting down 5 or more enemy aircraft, he said, “becoming an Ace was never more important than protecting the bombers.” In other words, the mission is more important than individual fame. And they have become legendary for their commitment to the mission, and as a

result to our country.

Vietnam saw 18-year-old Army Pfc. Milton Olive III receive the Medal of Honor for an act of bravery few people in any war have equaled. Olive’s unit was under heavy enemy attacks from the Viet Cong.

As the enemy fled the counterattacks of Private Olive’s 3rd Platoon, a few VC turned back and threw grenades, one of which landed near Olive, three of his buddies and the platoon leader. Olive grabbed the grenade and covered it with his body, absorbing the blast and saving his fellow soldiers while ensuring the success of the counterassault.

At the White House ceremony to present the Medal of Honor posthumously to Olive’s parents, President Johnson summed up the reason we should remember the example of Olive and others like him: “In dying, he taught those of us who remain how we ought to live.”

Another Vietnam War hero, Col. Fred Cherry, endured torture, solitary confinement and repeated beatings as a prisoner of war for more than seven years. He was brutally tortured when he refused to sign statements that the United States was a racist country or make broadcasts encouraging African-American soldiers not to fight. Even after suffering the most brutal torture — including an operation to repair a broken rib with no anesthesia — he never gave in to his captors, telling them, “You’ll have to kill me before I denounce my country.”

All of these men practiced and validated ideals that are uniquely American. Often in our history, those most persecuted are they who realize most clearly what it is to be American. As Americans, we should look at these examples and so many more — not just in February, but all year — to remind us that all Americans contribute to the preservation of what makes America the greatest country in history.

Hopefully, through role models such as these African-Americans, we can all live Cherry’s words, “Race has nothing to do with it — I’ll succeed because I’m good,” both in our own goals and how we look at others. Their ability to do just that is what makes them not just heroes to African-Americans, but heroes to all Americans.

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

LT. COL. KIM BENDER

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

LORI BULTMAN

DAVID DEKUNDER

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AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

TYLER MCQUISTON

SABRINA FINE

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

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

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
COMMANDER

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

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

Q. I work for the 802nd Force Support Squadron, and I noticed a few things that need to be updated on the JBSA.mil website.

The installation directory is from 2016 and the history was last updated in 2014. Do you have a more recent installation telephone directory?

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We are currently in the process of gathering updated information regarding the online service directory and will publish it on the website once it is complete.

Additionally, our new JBSA app can be downloaded through Air Force Connect. It has a directory of numbers that while not yet



COURTESY GRAPHIC

comprehensive, are current and verified.

Q. I start by asking if you could please re-address opening a second lane at the JBSA-Randolph main gate at least on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

I know we (we, being all the people stuck in the queue line backed out into the busy intersection, trying to get into the single gate line) have read this and it has been addressed before, but when, how long ago?

Did whoever address this find themselves stuck in the intersection, hoping the traffic light does

not change, and possibly getting hit by another car coming from the other way? There are cars coming in straight from Pat Booker Road, cars turning left from FM 78, and cars turning right coming from the other way on FM 78, all funneling into one lane.

Please, at least come out and take a look around 5:40 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. (on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) and see what we are dealing with. This is not trivial whining, but a true concern for all. Thank you.

A. Thank you for your email and concern about entry control traffic.

The main cause of back up at the main gate in the morning is the turnaround of personnel lacking IDs and masks for all passengers.

We do allow for personnel to occupy the closed lane and merge into the open lane checking IDs to avoid issues at the intersection when crossing FM 78.

We also encourage people to use the other gates that open at 6 a.m. that are not as busy nor have the unique accident risks associated with the intersection in front of our main gate.

We ask all personnel entering the installation to wear masks and be prepared with the IDs of all passengers to expedite entry onto the installation.

Our Security Forces diligently measure traffic wait times and then balance lane availability with security for the installation.

Additionally, they work with the Texas Department of Transportation to adjust traffic lights off-installation in response to traffic flows and surges. Thank you for your feedback and understanding.

Legal offices provide claims guidance following winter storm

By Erinn Burgess

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio legal offices are providing claims guidance following the weeklong winter storm that brought snow and sustained freezing temperatures to Texas beginning Feb. 14.

The claims service centers and legal offices are available to provide support, information and resources to individuals that may have experienced damage to their personal property due to the recent winter storm, said Lt. Col. Satara Gabriel, 502nd Force Support Group Staff Judge Advocate.

Those who suffered loss or damage may file a claim with the government if:

- ▶ The property was located on base or in government assigned quarters when it was damaged (to include privatized housing located on the installation); and
- ▶ The individual is a proper claimant under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act (active duty member, reservist on active duty orders or federal employee).

Contractors should file claims with their private insurers.

Before filing a claim with the government, claimants must first file with their private insurance companies.

In general, claimants will need to provide:

- ▶ Proof of assignment to JBSA,
 - ▶ A repair estimate, and
 - ▶ Replacement cost for lost or damaged items.
- The legal office also recommends including pictures of the loss or damage.

Loss of food due to power outages may also be covered. Individuals will need to provide:

- ▶ Proof of assignment to JBSA,
- ▶ Photos of the items you believe to be spoiled,
- ▶ Any recent receipts from the commissary or grocery store, and
- ▶ Renter's insurance information.

If base housing residents do not have their own renter's insurance policy, any items which can be repaired or cleaned must first be attempted by a firm qualified to repair. If an item cannot be repaired, then replacement is warranted. Before proceeding with any repairs, base legal recommends contacting the appropriate claims service center.

Individuals who do not live on base but suffered loss or damage to personal property on the installation may be eligible to file a claim if the damage occurred incident to military service or employment.

Claimants will need to provide the following:

- ▶ Proof of ownership (for a privately owned vehicle, your title/registration);

- ▶ Copy of the contract for RV or lemon lot, as applicable;
- ▶ Proof of insurance, as applicable;
- ▶ Repair estimate; and
- ▶ Replacement cost.

Claims filing is completed online via the claims service center for each respective branch.

"Any of the base legal offices across JBSA can answer basic questions that claimants have regarding the claims process, and if any unique issues arise, the legal office can help ensure the matter is elevated to the appropriate point of contact within the Claims Service Center," Gabriel said.

The claims service centers for each branch are as follows:

- ▶ **Air Force:**
Website: <https://claims.jag.af.mil>
Phone: 877-754-1212
- ▶ **Army:**
Website: www.jagcnet.army.mil/Pclaims
Phone: 502-626-3000
Email: usarmy.knox.hqda-otjag.mbx.cpcs@mail.mil
- ▶ **Navy and Marine Corps:**
Website: http://www.jag.navy.mil/organization/code_15.htm
Phone: 888-897-8217
Email: norfolkclaims@navy.mil

JBSA continues to recover from extreme winter weather in Texas

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As President's Day approached, so did severe winter weather at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 14. Winter storm warnings were issued as northerly winds at 10 to 20 knots and bitter cold fell upon the region, leading to extensive power and water outages, slick roads and burst pipes.

Throughout the severe weather event, JBSA leaders followed the City of San Antonio Emergency Operations Center through their weather webinars to determine the best courses of action and to align what the city was doing in response to the unfolding situation.

Before the arrival of the Arctic blast, members of the 341st Military Working Dog Training Squadron quickly prepared to move more than 800 military working dogs indoors to protect them from the elements.

Personnel from the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center also remained on site as needed throughout the storm to ensure the horses and mules had adequate shelter, water and food.

By Monday, conditions had deteriorated greatly, leading to the closure of all JBSA locations except to emergency essential personnel. Roads iced and those with power now fell victim to rolling outages lasting from minutes to hours to days.

"The safety of all JBSA personnel continues to be my #1 concern," said Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, in her messages to the community throughout the week. "A weather event of this magnitude is unprecedented in San



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, receives a tour from Maj. Tate Grogan (left), 341st Training Squadron director of operations, of where Military Working Dogs were housed during the cold weather Feb. 19 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Antonio, and our emergency crews are working hard to restore services at all JBSA locations."

As the storm continued, Outdoor Recreation personnel on JBSA responded to a call from FAMCAMP patrons at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and Canyon Lake Recreation Area for much needed propane tank refills on the coldest of days, ensuring these personnel had what they needed to weather the storm, said Brian Roush, 502nd Force Support Squadron executive director.

"Canyon Lake staff members also remained on site over multiple days to ensure the safety of guests and opened vacant facilities for shelter when recreational vehicles could not keep up with temperatures," he said.

Fitness Center personnel on JBSA also braved the cold conditions to open fitness centers for warming centers and hot shower facilities for JBSA personnel, Roush said.

"Child and Youth Services personnel also worked during the closure to clean up damaged facilities, prepare alternate facilities, and secure supplies in order to be able to reopen the Child Development Centers and School Age Programs on Feb. 22," he said.

Throughout the snowstorm, the 502nd Operational Support Squadron's weather personnel continued to monitor the situation day and night, reporting developments.

"The 502nd OSS had already normalized accomplishing work from geographically separated locations due to COVID-19,"

said Lt. Col. Yancey Walker, the squadron's commander.

"Because of this adaptation, we were able to pass critical information, in near real time, about the status of the airfield and its systems both internally and externally, all without putting our Airmen at risk in the hazardous conditions"

By Wednesday, some JBSA Commissaries and Exchanges were able to open to base residents to provide needed food and supplies, but Thursday, snow began to fall again, and continued to fall for nearly 15 hours, forcing many roads and overpasses to become impassable again.

At that time, JBSA fire stations began providing potable water to base residents who were without due to frozen pipes, as well as to local

hospitals without water.

"JBSA Fire Emergency Services places huge value on the relationships with our mutual aid partners and local municipalities," said Mark R. Ledford, JBSA fire chief. "Being able to provide water tender support for medical facilities was a challenge that our team tackled, and they remain ready to assist as needed for this critical assistance."

The chief said, even with everything happening on JBSA, they also were able to assist local fire crews responding to a massive apartment fire in the community.

"We feel horrible for the loss of property during the fire, but were able to rally personnel and resources from across the installation to support. An engine company and water tender responded from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, a tender responded from JBSA-Randolph, and personnel quickly moved from JBSA-Lackland to augment staffing," Ledford said. "It was exactly how we are postured to assist our partners while providing superior protection for this amazing wing and mission partners during an incredibly challenging week."

Personnel at Brooke Army Medical Center also launched into action to ensure continuity of patient care. All non-urgent medical appointments and procedures were canceled to ensure emergency services and trauma support to the city remained unaffected for the duration of the severe weather event.

"As a Level I Trauma Center, it is vital that we maintain our critical care mission and support to our community partners, while ensuring the safety and well-being of our service members, patients and

WINTER STORM continues on 5

WINTER STORM

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staff,” said BAMC’s commander, Brig. Gen. Shan K. Bagby.

The 502nd Civil Engineers at JBSA were busy all week, maintaining base roads and treating them with sand so those who needed to travel could.

Members of the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron were also hard at work throughout the storms, continuing 24-hour emergency operations and distributing cold weather gear and sleeping bags to those without power or working out in the elements.

The squadron kicked into high gear when the Del Rio, Texas, water plant was forced to switch to generator power.

The 502nd LRS’s Vehicle Management flight quickly prepared two water buffalo, with assistance from personnel from the 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron and Bioenvironmental, who cleaned and sanitized the water tanks, providing potable water in support of 2,000 personnel affected by the water shortage at Laughlin Air Force Base, according to Lt. Col. Glen Langdon, 502nd LRS commander.

Meanwhile, the squadron’s Passenger

Movement Element worked to adjust transportation for 645 departing JBSA students and coordinating arrivals for the training wings.

On Friday, the 37th Training Wing at JBSA-Lackland worked to ensure Basic Military Trainees were not delayed in their training and proceeded with three modified BMT graduation ceremonies.

When the severe weather began, training wing personnel worked with their JBSA partners to provide supplemental heat, bottled water, food, blankets, additional clothing and portable facilities as needed to ensure the safety and health of the student, trainee and military working dog populations.

“Our number one priority is, and will continue to be, the safety and well-being of all those assigned to the 37th Training Wing — both our permanent party and students in training,” said Col. Rockie K. Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander. “We adjusted mission operations as required to maintain the integrity of the training pipeline; and we are working hand-in-hand with our JBSA mission partners to address issues as quickly as they arise. Our ability to work with our partners in the 502nd Air Base Wing also demonstrates the collective strength of our JBSA-wide team.”



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Derek Hunter, 668th Alteration and Installation Squadron heating, ventilation, and air condition technician, reports damages Feb. 19 that were caused by the severe winter storm lasting more than five days at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

BAMC powers through record-breaking storms

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With record-cold temperatures and potential power outages looming in South Central Texas recently, Brooke Army Medical Center personnel immediately launched into action to ensure continuity of patient care despite the impending storms.

With safety at the forefront and to conserve resources, BAMC first delayed all non-urgent medical appointments and procedures to ensure emergency services and trauma support to the city remained unaffected. This measure enabled patients and non-emergency-essential staff to stay off icy roads and safely at home.

“As a Level I Trauma Center, it is vital that we maintain our critical care mission and support to our community partners, while ensuring the safety and well-being of our service members, patients and staff,” said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Shan K. Bagby.

To ensure continuity of care, BAMC’s healthcare professionals stayed for hours past their shifts, in some cases overnight, until icy roads thawed and personnel relieving them could safely travel to the hospital.

Many staff members went above and beyond, pitching in to replenish supplies and aid with bed coordination for staff needing to stay overnight.

In one case, nursing supervisor Michelle Garrish spent three nights in the hospital to help cover shifts, while Staff Sgt. Russell Johnson offered to pick up staff who were unable to drive in.

Air Force 1st Lt. Cruz



COURTESY PHOTO

Brooke Army Medical Center endured a deluge of snowfall at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 15 and 18. Services at BAMC were limited for several days during two record-setting winter storms.

Williamson stayed three hours past her shift, with another three hours spent driving to her house, which was without electricity. Still, she assured her supervisor she would just take a quick nap in case she needed to come back to work.

These are just a few examples of the many contributions over the past week, noted Army Lt. Col. Jody Brown, deputy commander for inpatient services.

“I am enthusiastically grateful to work with this outstanding team of professionals,” she said. “The communication and unity of effort across the hospital was superb and a testament to the team’s training and professionalism.”

With the ongoing below-freezing temperatures and intermittent snow and ice, BAMC also temporarily closed

outlying clinic services for the week to include COVID screening and testing and vaccine administration.

“We made some difficult decisions with safety at the forefront,” Bagby said.

Additionally, at the request of CPS Energy and as part of Joint Base San Antonio’s city support, BAMC transitioned to generator power for close to 48 hours earlier this week to aid the community’s power conservation efforts. The city’s power reached critical levels this week due to the increased demand on the system, spurring many planned rolling power outages across the region to conserve power.

“BAMC was well-prepared to provide this community support,” said Army Col. Michael Wirt, BAMC deputy commanding officer. “About a year ago, BAMC completed an

extensive upgrade to the central energy plant, bringing the latest power technology to the facility. Additionally, BAMC personnel train to respond to power outages, both planned and unplanned, throughout the year to ensure their readiness for a real-world event.”

The power transition, which was transparent to patients, did not impact BAMC’s inpatient care mission or support of the city’s trauma mission. Alongside University Hospital, BAMC is one of two Level I Trauma Centers in the region, providing support across a 26,000-square-mile, 22-county expanse.

“We have an active and long-standing partnership with the community, which enables us to act as a cohesive, efficient system in times of crisis,” said Air Force Col. Patrick Osborn,

deputy commander for surgical services. “I am deeply impressed with the BAMC team’s contributions as well as the incredible efforts of our emergency services personnel across the city.”

BAMC’s ongoing training and recent response to the pandemic were key factors in the hospital’s rapid and successful response to the weather this week, Bagby noted.

“Over the past year, we have been leveraging virtual health, telework and operational flexibility with great success,” he said. “Our training and experience were huge contributors in our ability to respond quickly, calmly and with expertise over the past week. I am incredibly proud of our staff and their determination to put our patients first in all that we do.”

Staff are not the only ones well-versed in continually evolving conditions, Bagby added. “Our patients have also exhibited resilience, support and understanding, not just over the past week, but throughout the entire year.”

As for the staff, the weather event will mark another challenge surmounted in an already difficult year.

“I am so proud and grateful for the way our people rise to this and every occasion,” said Air Force Col. Heather Yun, deputy commander for medical services. “Every one of our teammates has been personally affected by the storm, but nevertheless show so much compassion, empathy, diligence and professionalism. We will all have stories to tell after this week, and we will be telling stories of grit, care and an incredible community that rose to yet another remarkable occasion.”

Conference of American Armies focuses on NCO development, COVID-19

By Pfc. Joshua Tackens
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 34th cycle of the Conference of American Armies, or CAA, focusing on non-commissioned officer education and COVID-19 lessons learned, was held Feb. 9-11 at U.S. Army South headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston as a hybrid in-person and virtual event due to pandemic restrictions.

The CAA is an international military organization integrated and run by 23 member armies of the Americas, three observer armies and Spain's army as a special observer. Each cycle lasts two years and is led by a different volunteer member army who chooses a topic. This cycle is led by Argentina.

During the conference, subject matter experts presented NCO educational topics, while three working groups addressed matters concerning academic course structure, online education, opportunities to share NCO educational resources, and COVID-19 adaptations to NCO education.

"We're really focusing on the NCO piece, trying to strengthen the NCO Corps of all the armies across the region," said Robert Pike, the U.S. Army's CAA liaison officer. "This conference is about NCO education, and other conferences will look at NCO career profiles, NCO leadership, the role of the NCO, the future of the NCO and NCO training."

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic was also a large focus of the conference since it adds several challenges to how the conference operates.

Pike said the CAA is looking at each army's response to the pandemic and how member nations can learn from each other's experiences.



PFC. JOSHUA TACKENS

Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor C. Walker speaks at the 34th cycle of the Conference of American Armies at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 9.

"The CAA would normally have in-person conferences several times a year, but it has moved everything to a virtual platform to curb the spread of the virus," Pike said.

Though COVID-19 has created many challenges, there is at least one benefit.

"There are resource-constrained countries that are unable to attend all of the in-person conferences, but participation has greatly improved by moving it to a virtual platform," Pike said.

Overall, this conference was productive, said Brig. Gen. Alcides V Faria, Jr., U.S. Army South Deputy Commanding General of Interoperability.

"This event allowed us to develop and consolidate our interoperability and strengthen our partnership with concrete benefits for our organizations and our countries. I am very confident that we have produced excellent results that will be very useful to all the armies of the CAA."

Brig. Gen. Alcides V Faria, Jr.

U.S. Army South Deputy Commanding General of Interoperability

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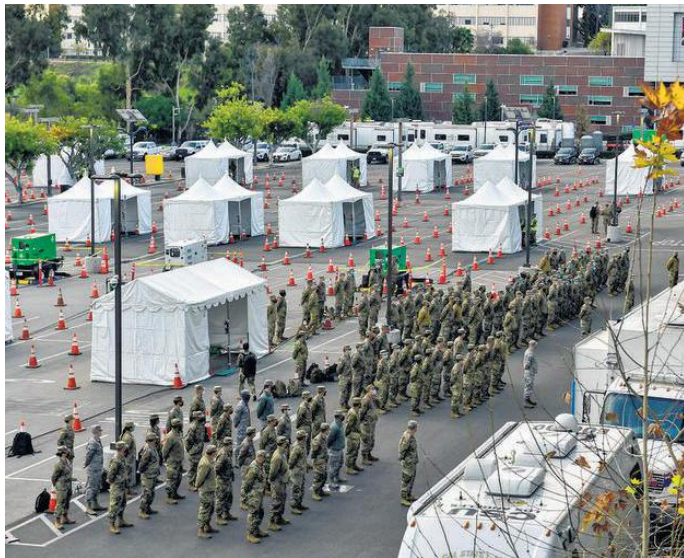
benefits for our organizations and our countries," said Alcides. "I am very confident that we have produced excellent

results that will be very useful to all the armies of the CAA."

The next CAA will be a live event scheduled to take place in El Salvador in April of this year.

The CAA was created in 1960 with the aim of establishing a forum of discussion for the exchange of experiences, analysis and debate between the armies of the western hemisphere with a goal to enhance collaboration, security and democratic development of the member countries.

U.S. Army South plays a key role as the U.S. Army's lead agent and CAA liaison responsible for all coordination with partner nation armies.



SENIOR AIRMAN NEIL MABINI

Guardsmen of the California National Guard assigned to Joint Task Force Mustang attend a morning brief at the California State University campus in Los Angeles Feb. 15. The force has been activated to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' first whole-of-government, mega point of distribution site for the COVID-19 vaccine.

ARNORTH oversees military COVID-19 vaccination support to FEMA

By U.S. Army North Public Affairs

U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, has overseen the Department of Defense's COVID-19 response operation in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services since March 2020.

Approximately 1,710 military medical and support personnel are currently working in four states and one territory as part of the federal vaccine response to the pandemic.

"Getting more people vaccinated is the mission," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command commander.

"Every vaccination counts, and these 12 teams, assisting the four states and one territory on behalf of their governors and in support of FEMA, have the ability to get more than 25,000 additional people vaccinated every day."

As part of new COVID-19 support efforts, and sourced from new active duty personnel recently announced by DOD to support the new effort.

Texas: Approximately 500 service members, arriving Feb. 19, will support three teams in three cities. The first, a 222-person Type 1 Team from the U.S. Air Force, will support the Community Vaccination Center, or CVC, at the NRG Center in Houston. A 139-person, Type 2 Team from the U.S. Army will support the CVC at Fair Park Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. A 139-person, Type 2 Team from the U.S. Marine Corps will support the CVC at AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park in Arlington.

California: Approximately 220 service members arrived Feb. 11. A 222-person Type 1 Team from the U.S. Army is supporting the Community Vaccination Center at California State University Los Angeles in Los Angeles.

New York: Approximately 280 service members, arriving Feb. 19, will support two teams in two cities. One 139-person Type 2 Team from the U.S. Navy will support the CVC at York College in Jamaica, while a 139-person Type 2 Team from the U.S. Air Force

"Getting more people vaccinated is the mission. Every vaccination counts, and these 12 teams, assisting the four states and one territory on behalf of their governors and in support of FEMA, have the ability to get more than 25,000 additional people vaccinated every day."

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command commander

will support the CVC at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

New Jersey: Approximately 100 service members will support four teams in more than six cities. One 25-person Type 5 Team from the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, which arrived Feb. 11, will support the CVC at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset and, later, at a CVC site to be determined in Paterson. A 25-person Type 5 Team from the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, arriving Feb. 19, will support the CVC at Trenton Central High School in Trenton and, later, at the CVC at Iglesia Pentecostal Church in Vineland. One 25-person Type 5 Team from the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, arriving Feb. 19, will support the CVC at Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center in Elizabeth and, later, at a CVC site to be determined in Camden. One 25-person Type 5 Team will support two CVC sites at two to-be-determined locations, arriving on a date to be determined.

U.S. Virgin Islands: Approximately 50 service members will support two teams on two islands, arriving on a date to be determined. One 25-person Type 4 Team will support a CVC at the University of the Virgin Islands campus on St. Thomas. A 25-person Type 4 Team will support a CVC at the University of the Virgin Islands campus on St. Croix.

Electrical burn survivor reflects on accident, warns others to be careful

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On Nov. 2, 2020, Jorge Terrazas was working on electrical equipment at the South Texas Gateway Terminal, a crude oil export terminal in Ingleside, Texas, when he felt a powerful shock go through his body.

The shock Terrazas felt came as he was installing a cable on a switchgear, an electric power system, at the terminal, which provides stored crude oil to tankers from the U.S. and around the world. As a result of the shock, 12,000 volts of electricity went through Terrazas' body, causing second- to third-degree burns and leaving him in excruciating pain.

"It was like something I couldn't let go of," said Terrazas about the electrical shock. "I could feel my teeth like grinding and it felt very, very powerful. It held me for a couple of seconds and then let me go.

"I consider myself lucky," he added. "I think God was behind me and that's why I survived. Twelve thousand volts; it's tough."

After his accident, Terrazas was hospitalized for five weeks at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, or USAISR, Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, getting treatment for his burns and wounds. He has undergone eight surgeries for his burn injuries and is currently in rehabilitation as an outpatient.

The electrical shock and flash he received left burns on his left and right shoulders, right hand, left hand and arm. Besides the surgeries, Terrazas has also had skin grafts on his left arm and right shoulder.

Before he started working



COURTESY PHOTO /

Jorge Terrazas, (second from right), is surrounded by his family (from left), daughter Lesley, sons Aaron and Jorge and wife, Tere, while he was recovering from electrical burn injuries at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

on the switchgear system that led to getting shocked, Terrazas said he saw everything locked down on the system and believed it was shut off. But, once he started working on it, he saw a flash and then felt the shock.

Afterward, Terrazas said his wounds and burns were not visible because he was wearing fire retardant clothing and gloves; but he did see burns on the fingertips of his right hand and noticed inflammation on his left hand. The effects of the shock also left him in pain.

"I could feel a lot of pain on my whole left arm and hand, and it was getting closer and closer to my chest," Terrazas said. "My left hand was curling into me because of the pain."

Terrazas said co-workers helped him until first

responders arrived. Then, he was transported by ambulance to a Corpus Christi hospital, and then he was flown by helicopter to the USAISR Burn Center.

Terrazas said it was at the burn center that he saw the severity of his injuries.

"I never looked at my hand until I was in San Antonio; that's when I looked at it," he said. "It was scary at the time. I knew it was very, very bad. I was scared that they were going to cut my left hand off because of the damage."

Terrazas said he is grateful to his surgeon, Dr. Rodney Chan, USAISR chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and the therapists at the burn center who helped him during rehabilitation.

Since early December,

Terrazas has been recovering at home in Harlingen, Texas, and is still undergoing rehabilitation and therapy for his left hand.

The effects of the accident still linger, he said. And he still has a hard time getting sleep because of the pain from his injuries.

Terrazas said the accident has completely changed his life, making simple tasks, such as getting dressed, harder to do. He needs the help of his wife, Tere, to do those things, he said. He also still has a dressing over his left hand, which Tere has to change twice a day, and a cast over his left wrist.

Terrazas is scheduled to see his doctor at USAISR later this month for tendon reconstruction surgery.

"I consider myself lucky. I think God was behind me and that's why I survived. Twelve thousand volts; it's tough."

Jorge Terrazas, burn patient

Reflecting on the experience, Terrazas said he has learned many things that he wants to pass along to others like, it is better to be safe than sorry by taking precautions before working around electrical equipment.

"It's not worth the pain," Terrazas said. "It's better to stop the job and test everything first. If it's going to take an extra 10 to 15 minutes, let it be. The electrical injuries - it's not a joke. Everything is painful."

People with electrical burn injuries, such as Terrazas', account for approximately four percent of burn patients treated at burn centers annually across the United States, according to the American Burn Association. Each year, approximately 400,000 people receive medical care and treatment for burn injuries.

The awareness and prevention of electrical burn injuries was the focus of National Burn Awareness Week Feb. 7-13, observed annually by the American Burn Association, and organizations and burn centers that educate the public about and treat burn injuries, such as the USAISR Burn Center.

New leadership arrives at 377th TSC

By Capt. Matthew Cline

377TH THEATER SUSTAINMENT
COMMAND

During a virtual ceremony held at the historic Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 29, senior leadership within the U.S. Army North community gathered to honor the accomplishments of the outbound commander of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Greg Mosser.

Mosser led the command since the beginning of the ongoing nationwide COVID-19 response mission as the lead logistics element in support of U.S. Army North while balancing the command responsibilities of subordinate expeditionary commands, which saw more than 2,400 troops deploy overseas during his 18-month tenure as commanding general.

As he reflected on his time as commanding general, Mosser remembered two components of the unit's wide-ranging mission set that stood out to him.

"One is our mobilization mission with U.S. Army North, along with the relationships that we built here," he explained. "Second is the efforts and successes of the commands that make up the 377th TSC and the excellence they've maintained by adapting to pandemic conditions."

The 377th TSC has been a key component in U.S. Army North's logistical capability to provide COVID-19 support operations in over 50 cities across 14 states and provide medical augmentation to nearly 70 different hospitals. The command's sustainment network adapted to the limitations of COVID-19 to provide nationwide mission support for over 15,000 medical providers across every branch of the military.

Mosser attributed a great deal of the command's success to the resiliency of his noncommissioned officer corps,



CHARLOTTE REAVIS

Maj. Gen. Gregory Mosser (center), former commander of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, receives an award from Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson (right), commanding general of U.S. Army North, during a change of command ceremony Jan. 29 at the historic Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The 377th TSC serves as the leading logistics element in support of U.S. Army North's nationwide COVID-19 response.

and the adaptive measures they took to overcome obstacles for mission completion during the pandemic response.

"It's that grit, it's that determination, that persistence, to do what is right and get done what needs to get done," he said. "That's what gives the 377th, the Army Reserve, and indeed our total force the edge that it needs and what it takes to keep our nation protected in these challenging times."

The presiding officer at the event, Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, commanding general of U.S. Army North, reviewed the command's extensive accomplishments during Mosser's tenure, which included hurricane response during a record-setting season and wildfire relief in California.

"The 377th TSC is such an important command for the U.S. Army, with the centralized

mission to sustain active component forces responding to homeland Defense Support of Civil Authorities and security cooperation activities in the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility," she said. "Whenever we, as an Army, jump into action on behalf of the nation, the 377th is the command that opens the theater and they come through with flying colors every time."

Maj. Gen. Susan Henderson assumed command during the ceremony, bringing with her a wealth of understanding and experience about the mission set and responsibilities of the 377th TSC from her time as the former commanding general of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a subordinate command which also contributes to the nationwide U.S. Army North pandemic response. Henderson was

enthusiastic and thankful for her new role with the 377th TSC.

"Not only do I get to continue in command in the greatest Army in the world, but I also get to command the mighty 377th Theater Sustainment Command, the largest command in the Army Reserve," she said. "I get to command this premier logistics organization in support of a warfighter engaged with the enemy, which right now, is COVID-19."

As Mosser wrapped up his remarks, he was grateful for the efforts of the over 36,000 Soldiers and civilians spread across the country that comprise the 377th TSC.

"Part of what motivates our Soldiers and citizens to serve is to be a part of something larger than themselves, to contribute to a cause that no individual can

do by himself or herself," he concluded. "I thank the leaders within the 377th at every level for making this command one we can all be extremely proud to be a part of. I will long look back with pride on my time with this command."

At the ceremony's conclusion, Henderson paid homage to Mosser's many accomplishments but acknowledged the mission is far from over.

"We all know that the 377th has been tested over the last year and I know the 377th will be tested in the next year as well," she asserted. "My goal is to capitalize on the gains that were achieved by the previous commander and then take this command to the next higher level, so buckle your seat belts. Our country is demanding of us to be on top of our game and we will deliver."

LACKLAND

Teams protect hundreds of military working dogs from severe weather in Texas

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Warhawk Nation came together to protect their own Feb. 13, transporting 804 military working dogs indoors in preparation for severe winter weather in the Alamo Region.

The dogs, members of the 341st Military Working Dog Training Squadron, were well taken care of during their time indoors, ensuring their safety and well-being during the harsh conditions.

The week was anything but normal for the hard-working dogs.

“The military working dogs and the Transportation Security Administration working dogs are normally housed in outdoor kennel runs on both JBSA-Lackland and at JBSA-Chapman Training Annex,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Kowalski, squadron commander. “The 341st TRS has the capacity of housing more than 1,200 dogs in our facilities.”

The unit is also supported by the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, through the Holland Military Working Dog Veterinary Hospital on JBSA-Lackland and a veterinary clinic located with the dogs on JBSA-Chapman Training Annex, he said.

The dogs located at Joint Base San Antonio have a wide variety of jobs.

“In the Department of Defense, military working dogs are used for substance detection, explosives or narcotics, as well as law enforcement functions such as patrol, suspect apprehension and search and officer



COURTESY PHOTOS

Airman 1st Class Dominic A. Fallon, a student in the Military Working Dog Handlers course, walks one of the military working dogs kept warm inside temporary kennels Feb. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex.

protection,” Kowalski said. “In the Transportation Security Administration, they are used to detect explosives at our country’s airports, seaports, train stations and package delivery locations all over the United States.”

To protect the dogs during the extreme weather, members of the 341st TRS came together with their mission partners, active-duty military members, students and civilians to move the dogs from their outdoor kennel runs into warm buildings in the squadron’s training area. The team put together crates, moved food, set up walking tracks and provided food and drinks in order to get the four-legged warriors indoors in anticipation of this

week’s cold conditions, Kowalski said.

“We brought the dogs in once the temperatures dipped below freezing,” he said. “At that point, their water bowls would be frozen, and our ability to clean their kennels would be decreased and unsafe.”

Once all the dogs were moved, the job was not over.

Throughout the week, each dog was taken out of its crate for walks and bathroom breaks every four hours, or as needed, Kowalski said.

“We have canine handlers on shift 24-hours-a-day keeping the dogs happy, warm and fed,” he said.

The operation will continue until it is safe to move the canines back to their normal



Warhawk Nation team members assembled crates, moved food, set up walking tracks and provided food and drinks in order to get Military Working Dog warriors indoors in anticipation of severely cold weather at Joint Base San Antonio.

housing of outdoor kennels.

“We plan to move the dogs back to the normal kennel configuration once the temperatures are over 40 degrees Fahrenheit and our teams can sanitize and disinfect the kennels to receive the dogs,” Kowalski said. “We plan on this movement happening over the coming weekend if the weather is good.”

Kowalski is thankful for all the volunteers who supported their mission.

“As the commander of the

341st TRS, and on behalf of our mission partners at TSA and the U.S. Army Veterinarians, I want to thank all those volunteers, fosters, and the military working dog supporters who have brought food, donated towels and blankets, or have donated funds to our charity organizations. We thank you for all your support during this emergency operation and your continued support of the TSA and Department of Defense working dog programs.”



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

The U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy has selected Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Hernandez, first sergeant with the 502nd Communications Squadron, to attend an 11-week program dedicated to developing adaptive, ethical leaders and preparing them for greater responsibilities.

“My reaction after hearing I was selected was shock! With COVID-19, the Navy was the only service accepting applicants.”

Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Hernandez, first sergeant with the 502nd Communications Squadron

Air Force first sergeant selected for Navy leadership course

By Andrew C. Patterson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIR

The U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy has selected Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Hernandez, first sergeant with the 502nd Communications Squadron, to attend an 11-week program dedicated to developing adaptive, ethical leaders and preparing them for greater responsibilities.

The academy's academic programming provides senior enlisted personnel with a solid understanding of national security strategy, joint force operations and leadership skills. Coursework focuses on communication, management, ethics and mission accomplishment in a global environment.

Hernandez, a former security forces member, spent 11 years as a military working

dog handler, with four of those years as a course instructor. He was also an executive assistant for the command senior enlisted leader for U.S. Space Command.

“My reaction after hearing I was selected was shock! With COVID-19, the Navy was the only service accepting applicants,” Hernandez said. “Less than approximately 36 Airmen in previous years received a seat in this sister service school.”

When asked why courses like this are important to Air Force leaders, Hernandez said “it provides a unique viewpoint from a sister services’ perspective. I am fortunate to have served in joint positions and enjoy learning about the other services.”

“The goal of Navy SEA is to develop agile, adaptive military

professionals who inspire their teams to perform at higher levels. Hernandez has been a key feature of my leadership team for over a year,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Waddell, 502nd CS commander. “His ability to take care of our people, provide leadership with sound advice, and coordinate support with our JBSA mission partners proves he has what it takes to be successful in this sister service school. His attendance will strengthen his skill sets and will serve him well as he continues his Air Force career.”

A leader that made a significant impact on Hernandez was his former supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. Space Force.

“He believes in taking care

of Airmen and building trust with them,” Hernandez said of Towberman. “I can’t count how many times I’ve heard him say ‘trust me’ to people. Trust is a hard thing to come by, so I try to earn and protect the trust that is given to me.

“Do good things because it’s the right thing to do, and opportunities like this school or rank will come to you,” Hernandez advised. “Keep learning. A good barometer of how much you know is if people are coming to you for advice. If no one is, then you’re not regarded as an expert,” he continued.

“The process for selection has become more competitive over the years, so his selection is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to his outstanding wingmen and leadership teams for their support,” said Brig.

Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, in an email congratulating Hernandez.

“Being a leader is hard and there’s a reason there are thousands of leadership books out there. If I had to guess one of my traits, I’d have to say compassion. When an Airman is in trouble, sometimes as a first sergeant, you’re their only advocate. A strength of mine is thoughtfulness: I like to think things through to make sure I have all my bases covered,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez, a native of California, joined the Air Force due to not liking school and feeling he wasn’t ready for college. He recently completed a master’s degree from the University of Charleston, West Virginia, setting an example for his family and children.

502nd LRS unloads 80,000 bottles of water after winter storm Uri

By Sarayuth Pinthong
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland assisted with the coordinating and unloading of more than 150,000 pounds of bottled water brought in via aircraft at JBSA-Kelly Field Annex to be distributed to the city of San Antonio after winter storm Uri.



PHOTOS BY SARAYUTH PINTHONG

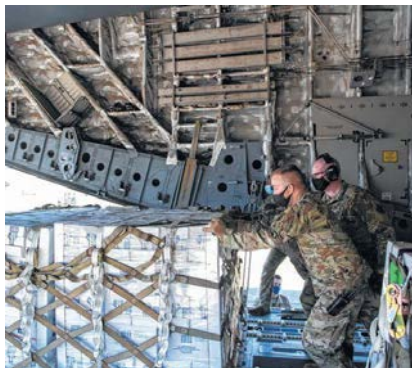
A U.S. Air Force C-17 from the 16th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, arrives carrying over 57,000 bottles of water, Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field.



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott watches as Airmen with the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron assist with the unloading of approximately 80,000 bottles of water brought in via aircraft at Kelly Field to be distributed to the city of San Antonio following Winter Storm Uri Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field.



Airman 1st Class Bryce Elzy, 16th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, directs a 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron driver Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field.



Airmen with the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron unload and transport emergency supplies of bottled water Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field.

Watch out for signs of teen dating violence

By Steve Mayfield

JBSA-LACKLAND VIOLENCE
PREVENTION INTEGRATOR

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, or TDVAM. As the father of a teenage daughter, this subject and monthly observation, really resonates with me.

In a selfish way, I'm kind of glad that COVID-19 has interrupted our social norms and limited the "teen dating scene." One of the collateral aspects of the restrictions that have resulted from this epidemic is that I don't have to worry about what might happen when my daughter is out on a date, or even out with a group of her friends.

For the parents out there, perhaps you have similar feelings and thoughts. This month is set aside to ensure we all are made more aware of teen dating violence and some of its accompanying aspects such as stalking and sexual assault. This year's TDVAM theme is "Know Your Worth."

Here's a question for parents: When was the last time you had a conversation with your teen (both males and females) about dating abuse?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, three in four parents say they have had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a healthy relationship — but 74 percent of sons and 66 percent of daughters said they have not had the conversation about dating abuse with a parent in the past year. It may be time to re-engage on this subject again.

Let's define teen dating violence. According to the Community Resource Center based in San Diego, California, "teen dating violence is a type of domestic violence or intimate partner violence. Teen dating violence is the use of coercive, intimidating, or manipulative behaviors to exert power and control over a

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



COURTESY GRAPHIC

According to the Community Resource Center based in San Diego, California, "teen dating violence is a type of domestic violence or intimate partner violence. Teen dating violence is the use of coercive, intimidating, or manipulative behaviors to exert power and control over a partner. It can happen in person or electronically, especially through-unwanted texting and social media posts."

partner. It can happen in person or electronically, especially through-unwanted texting and social media posts."

The CDC goes on to indicate that one out of every three adolescents — 33 percent — report having experienced verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating abuse each year.

The CDC also says that 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;
- ▶ Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, physically hitting/striking others; and
- ▶ Have thoughts about suicide.

During this month, organizations, teachers, and

parents are highly encouraged to develop initiatives and strategies focused on empowering and informing teens of methods to establish and engage in "healthy relationships," which are relationships centered on respect and equality. These are relationships grounded in the reality that there are challenges associated with establishing and maintaining healthy interpersonal connections.

As adults/parents, it is vitally important that we relinquish a bit of control and wholeheartedly listen to what our teens have to say.

Remember, at one point, we were teens, as well. Think back to your teenage years ... how easy was it for you to discuss "relationship issues" with your parents? For many of us, I would venture to say this was

not an easy conversation to have. If it was easy for you, consider yourself fortunate.

While the month of February provides an opportunity to focus on teen dating violence, it requires our focus and attention throughout the year, as well.

If you have teenagers who are dating, or who are of dating age, encourage them and the persons they have relationships with to go to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month 2021 Pledge at <https://www.factforward.org/> and complete the form.

The pledge simply states: "I pledge to treat my partners with equality and respect. I pledge to use healthy communication to resolve conflict. I pledge to ask for consent and respect my partners' boundaries." Your

teen then types his/her initials in the box provided to sign the pledge. They may also consent to have their initials published and indicate that they would like to receive more information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships.

According to the CDC, approximately 360 teens are treated in emergency rooms each day for "assault injuries." Violence prevention is a key component in protecting our teenagers and supporting their growth into healthy adults.

Personally, I am going to do all I can to ensure my daughter is not one of those who were/are assaulted. How about you?

For more information, call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) or TTY at 1-888-232-6348, or at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

RANDOLPH

Reserve recruiters participate in joint air operations at Joint Base San Antonio

By Col. Kjäll Gopaul

PATHFINDER, AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

In-service recruiters from the 352nd Recruiting Squadron participated in a joint Total Force helicopter sling load exercise Jan. 26-27 to enhance their situational awareness of the Air Force Reserve and broaden their understanding of the aerial transportation career field.

The recruiters teamed with Air Force Reserve component personnel from the 26th Aerial Port Squadron and Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, for the heliborne transport of over 26,000 pounds of cargo and personnel.

The two-day exercise involved rigging cargo loads, establishing a helicopter landing zone with four touch-down points and having two-person teams attach the loads to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Master Sgt. Dawnmosha S. Williams, 352nd Recruiting Squadron in-service recruiter-supervisor, organized her unit's participation to get the team out in the field and stay knowledgeable on Air Force Reserve job opportunities and activities.

"We want people to understand that recruiting is not just a desk job and that we're out there getting down and dirty with everyone else," she said the squadron's participation in the exercise.

Tech. Sgt. Brasil A. Segura, Air Force Reserve line recruiter, 352nd Recruiting Squadron, described that with each iteration, the two-person



SENIOR AIRMAN BRAYDON WILLIAMS

Tech. Sgt. Brasil A. Segura (far right), 352nd Recruiting Squadron in-service Air Force Reserve recruiter, braces Senior Airman Dillon Floyd, 26th Aerial Port Squadron, aerial porter, while supervised by Tech. Sgt. John Ortega, 26th Aerial Port Squadron aerial porter, as they prepare to attach a 2,000 pound A-22 cargo bag to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by Texas Army National Guard personnel Jan. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex.

hook-up team would stand by their load as the Black Hawk helicopter approached. The bracer held their teammate against the rotor wash and gave adjustment advice as the hook-up person waited for the opportunity to attach the load to the cargo hook of the aircraft hovering just five feet over them.

The team would then verify the secure hookup, dash to their safety point and give a thumbs up to the Army aircrew to confirm their task completion.

The experience was educational for those participating.

"My background is Security Forces, and I honestly did not know aerial transportation does this kind of up-close work with aircraft," Segura said. "What they do is pretty cool and is 100

percent part of the mission — to make sure the aircrews can do what they need to do to transport the cargo.

"Part of my job is to promote aerial transportation as a career choice," she said. "Now I have a better understanding of what 'Port Dawgs' do, and I can represent that to young applicants.

"Now, I also understand why folks with an ASVAB score of 99 are a match for the 2T2 career field," Segura said. "With the rigging, inspection, and loading procedures, aerial transportation is an attention-to-detail job that you cannot mess up. I saw all of the precautions out there on the LZ (landing zone) — if something is not strapped down right, or tied down correctly, or the weight is a little off, it could throw the

load off balance and put the load, the aircraft, or people on the ground at risk.

Segura said she has been able to place two applicants in the career field since the exercise because she was able to show them pictures and really describe the career field based on personal experience with the 26th APS.

Another 352nd RS in-service recruiter offered his perspective.

"I come from an aircrew background as a loadmaster on C-130s. This exercise was really interesting for me because I was able to see how an Army rotary-wing unit differs from an Air Force fixed-wing unit," said Master Sgt. Zachary R. Nusbaum. "This was a new experience, seeing the differences in rigging a load for different types of airframes and

types of movements. It was impressive to see the versatility of the equipment we have."

Nusbaum said the exercise really benefitted him as a recruiter.

"It's important to be able to identify with different Air Force Specialty Codes, what each job does and how that job relates to the overall mission and mission effectiveness," he said. "It's nice to show people that we're not just recruiters behind a desk, we're out here doing the same thing you do. Our participation also shows that recruiters really do care about our applicants.

"We are the gateway when applicants enter the Air Force, and it's important for them to understand that we are still in the field so we understand the jobs they applying for," said Williams, summarizing the importance of recruiters staying engaged at the field level. "As recruiters, we stay engaged with the field to actively know what they're doing so we can truly understand what we are asking applicants to obligate themselves to do."

This is important for today's recruiters, because the recruiting process eventually comes full circle.

"Our mission is to recruit qualified Airmen to fill the mission of the Air Force Reserve," Williams said. "There were actually two Airmen in the 26th Aerial Port Squadron on that helicopter landing zone that day who we had recruited from the JBSA-Lackland Air Force Reserve recruiting flight. They had recently graduated from technical school and now, we were out there alongside them accomplishing the mission. It was amazing!"

Air Force Total Force recruiting team works Super Bowl LV in Tampa

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force was on full display at Super Bowl LV Feb. 7 with a first-of-its-kind flyover consisting of a B-1B Lancer, B-2 Spirit, and B-52 Stratofortress. It also marked a return to in-person recruiting at one of the nation's largest events.

A team of Total Force recruiters worked the event with representatives from each of the air components — the regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard as well as the U.S. Space Force.

For many of these recruiters, it was the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic to work an event and engage in face-to-face recruiting with the public.

"It was nice having all components working side-by-side with each other interacting with the public," said Master Sgt. Daniel Bedford, AFRS national events program manager. "One mother told me, 'It's nice to have recruiters discuss part-time and full-time opportunities, and I didn't know you can serve in the Air Force out of uniform.' She also said it made it easier for her and her son to make an informed decision on Air Force opportunities with recruiters on-site from all backgrounds."

While this was the first time many recruiters got back to working a live event, it was Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Goldstrom's first event since becoming the AFRS command chief.

"To see all of our recruiters working together, engaging the public, was really great," Goldstrom said. "Seeing them interacting with everyone, especially the young children,



MASTER SGT. CHANCE BABIN

Total Force recruiters gather with a group of fans at the Super Bowl LV Experience outside of Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, Jan. 31.

and treating all of them with dignity and respect. While these young children aren't our target demographic, it was still important to inspire and engage them. It was a perfect representation of our recruiting synergy. I'm an NFL nerd so it was so cool to see."

Air Force recruiters were present at the lead-up to the game for six days and their activation featured the Air Force AIR RAID QB Sim experience. This virtual reality and sensor technology are used to train quarterbacks at both the college and pro levels. In the experience, visitors are playing against an Air Force defense and the background

featured Raymond James Stadium, which hosted the Super Bowl.

"Our new Air Raid asset was so popular with the fans — it was at least an hour wait," Goldstrom said. "I even tried it out, and I feel it's a great tool for our recruiters as it appeals to our target demographic who are tech-savvy." For the recruiters, the Air Raid was a success as it allowed them time to engage with the crowd.

"The Air Raid is a great tool. It allowed us to speak with people, answer questions and just give some gee-whiz information while waiting for their turn," said Master Sgt. Shane Hogan, the Air Force

Reserve in-service recruiter at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. MacDill is located near where the Super Bowl was played. "It also was a great way to advertise the brand of the Air Force and let people know there are other ways to serve in the Air Force and not just full time. I thought the Air Raid was easy to work and felt like fans enjoyed it."

The simulator was beneficial to all components' engagement needs.

"The Air Raid worked great! I thought it was great to put folks in the perspective or point of view of the quarterback," said Tech. Sgt. Carey Brown, a production

recruiter with the Florida Air National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters, 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida. "It actually brought all ages together as folks cheered for participants who were between the ages of 6 to 70. I think fans loved it."

The Air Force recently entered into a three-year agreement with the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame to build a permanent exhibit for the Air Force AIR RAID QB Sim experience as well as the mobile unit used at this year's Super Bowl.

While the Total Force recruiting enterprise has been an ongoing model for AFRS, this event was the first time for many recruiters since the pandemic to work together as a team.

"It was great working the Air Raid experience along with our Total Force team," Brown said. "It was great to meet teammates from other parts of the Air Force and fans from all over the world. The motivation for folks to come out during a pandemic and make the best of the experience was exciting."

This event also allowed the Total Force recruiters time to share ideas and experiences with one another.

"The experience from a Total Force recruiting perspective was great, the camaraderie and time to speak about certain aspects of recruiting that are done a little different was good to hear," Brown said. "We all worked together very well, generally when you get a bunch of Air Force folks together things flow very well — One Team, One Fight!"

Letting potential applicants know their options is key to successfully recruiting the best future Airman.

Air Force Reserve, National Guard ready to take force-shaping troops

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard should benefit from active-duty Air Force force-shaping actions made necessary by record Air Force retention levels.

Amidst concerns during the ongoing pandemic, many active-duty Airmen who planned on retiring or separating in 2020 withdrew or delayed their plans. This resulted in the Air Force having its highest retention levels in 20 years. It also caused projected fiscal year 2021 end-strength numbers to exceed end-of-year goals.

To ensure end-strength numbers are manageable, the Department of the Air Force has implemented several voluntary officer and enlisted force management programs for fiscal 2021, including an expanded Palace Chase program and limited active-duty service commitment waivers.

These new policies have opened the door for the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to benefit by gaining fully-qualified Airmen to help fill their ranks.

“We are excited to give these Airmen — who as a result of the Air Force end-strength challenges and this newly established force management program, are leaving the Air Force — the opportunity to voluntarily continue serving in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard,” said Col. Lisa Craig, Air Force Recruiting Service deputy commander. “By joining one of the Air Reserve Components, these Airmen will continue to enjoy many of the benefits they received on active duty, including 100 percent tuition, while still working toward a retirement,” Craig said.

Airmen interested in continuing their military career in one of the Air Reserve Components need to contact their Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard in-service recruiter immediately. Applications for Palace Chase and active-duty service commitment waivers must be submitted no later than April 2 and the member will need to request a separation date no later than Sept. 29.

Members interested in transitioning to the ARC need to meet the medical requirements determined by each component and secure a position in the Reserve or

Guard unit they would like to join.

“In order to determine whether or not a member would be medically cleared, they need to contact their local ISR for documentation required to initiate a review,” said Master Sgt. Tiffany Grullon, Air Force Reserve Command Palace Chase/Palace Front liaison. “Members interested in potential vacancies within the Air Force Reserve can visit the Air Force Personnel Center secure web site, and select ‘Reserve Vacancies.’ This gives them the ability to search for vacancies based on officer, enlisted, base, state and Air Force Specialty Code. For more information on Air National Guard vacancies, the member can visit www.goang.com or contact their local ANG ISR.”

The FY21 Expanded Palace Chase Program allows regular Air Force members who hold a specific AFSC and rank to request an early separation and transition into the Reserve or Guard to finish the remainder of their service contract.

For enlisted Airmen transitioning into an ARC position, the service commitment is reduced from the traditional two-to-one service obligation to a one-to-one exchange. For

officers transitioning into an ARC position via Expanded Palace Chase, the service commitment is reduced from a three-to-one service obligation to a one-to-one exchange.

The Limited Active-Duty Service Commitment Waiver Program allows Airmen in selected Control AFSCs to request retirement or separation prior to completing specified active-duty service commitments, according to an Air Force Personnel Center memorandum.

It is up to the member to contact the ISR representing the component of his or her choice.

Officers interested in transitioning to the Air Force Reserve will have an additional step in the process.

“They will need to meet with an Air Force Reserve ISR to initiate the scroll process,” Grullon said.

The scroll processing time can vary due to the level of approval.

“The Air Force Reserve in-service recruiter can discuss these timeframes with the member along with how current turnaround should not affect the member’s requested date of separation,” Grullon said.

ISRs can also assist in determining how to best match

the needs of the Reserve or Guard to those of separating Airmen.

Grullon said transitioning to the Guard or Reserve gives members an opportunity to serve on a part-time basis and pursue other goals.

“There is also the added bonus of health insurance, educational benefits and putting some extra cash in their pockets,” she said.

The common access card-accessible MyPers website lists the career fields experiencing potential overmanning that are eligible for the voluntary force management programs. There is an officer and an enlisted matrix located under the “Related Resources” tab.

Members who don’t qualify for the FY21 Force Management Program may have other options for transitioning to the Guard or Reserve.

If members need assistance contacting their in-service recruiter, Grullon advises them to check with their local force support squadron, or they can contact the service directly. The Air Force Reserve can be reached at 800-237-8279 or at <https://afreserve.com/how-to-join?#2>. The Air National Guard can be reached at <http://www.goang.com/>.

AFRS

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“This was my second time working an event as a Total Force team,” Hogan said. “I find it to be a great opportunity not just for myself, but for anyone who is interested in possibly joining an air component. Having all three components at the same event allows for the most accurate and correct information to be given out right there on the spot.”

The Total Force synergy was beneficial to all components.

“We all worked together well, I already knew most of the people there as we are networking already,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Hale, a special warfare recruiter at Patrick Space Force Base, Florida. “Total force is making us see our other teammates and connect with them.”

In addition, recruiters were able to get back out and do something many have missed — meet with the public.

“This event was a lot of

fun. It felt like an exclusive event since we needed special clearance to attend,” said Master Sgt. David Albanese, 333rd Recruiting Squadron, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida. “Some of the events such as our virtual reality QB experience were out of this world. I was also impressed with the care given to make it COVID-safe including the way we sanitized the equipment. We took a lot of great photos with families and everyone had a good time.

“The fans asked a lot of questions and I think they were impressed by both the Air and Space Force presence. I think our futuristic VR experience tied in well with the technology they would expect out of both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force.”

From the AFRS headquarters team, this event was the first large event in several months.

“The activations was a success. An average of about 300 people a day got to

experience the activation. The crowds were huge,” said Master Sgt. Zachary Atkinson, AFRS events marketing superintendent. “It hit the mark for brand awareness. The fans loved the experience and were all very military-friendly. It was great to be around the public again and everyone was using social distancing practices and wearing masks. The event was conducted safely and successfully. It was a great event to get back out into the field.”