

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 5, 2021



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRAYDON WILLIAMS

From left: Hook-up team members Marine Sgt. Robert A. DiEnno, 341st Training Squadron; Master Sgt. Matthew D. Dibenedetto, 343rd Training Squadron/OL-A; and Tech. Sgt. John M. Shue, 26th Aerial Port Squadron; give a thumbs-up to Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from Company C, 2-149 Aviation "Alamo Dustoff" after attaching a 5,600-pound Humvee to a UH-60 Black Hawk as part of a joint sling load mission Jan. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex.

343rd TRS Airmen soar in joint air operations

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502d ABW senior leaders discuss Black History Month, JBSA culture

By C Arce

502D AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider discussed Black History Month and the culture at JBSA during their Tough Conversation discussion Feb. 23 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The discussion focused on personal stories, concerns and how we, as a team, can create a culture where discrimination of any kind would not be tolerated or perpetuated by members of JBSA.

"I think this is an important moment in history and I think we should take advantage of it to continue to find ways we can improve," Snider said.

Miller and Snider encouraged the group to share openly and discuss any overt or covert actions they see that are holding the wing back from providing a diverse and inclusive environment.

One attendee opened the conversation saying it's important to separate personal feelings from the reality of racism and we must focus on the facts.

"Talks are good, but if people don't have the intention to call people out when they know something is wrong, then it's just talk," he said.

Another participant added that the need for acknowledgement that racism exists makes some people feel uncomfortable.

"It should not," she said. "Racism was here before us, and unfortunately, it's going to be here after us. It's going to take a long time to get to where we need to go, but we've got to do the work anyway."

Miller then asked the group,



C ARCE

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (left), 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider (right) discuss Black History Month and the culture at JBSA during their Tough Conversation discussion Feb. 23 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"When you're in uniform and you're out and about, do people say, 'thank you for your service?' Conversely, if you're not in uniform, do people treat you differently?"

"I'm revered when I'm in the uniform," an attendee said. "But when I'm at Target in sweatpants and a T-shirt, I am eyed several times and even followed."

The group also discussed Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.'s thoughts on the Jan. 6 violence at the Capitol.

"When I heard that the chief of staff was appalled by the riot at the Capitol, I wasn't surprised that we had retirees and active-duty members there," an attendee said.

Another member added that giving the proper punishment to the rioters is an important step in showing them that they can't get away with these actions, whether they are in the military or not.

Miller asked the group, "Within the 502d Air Base Wing, how do we get after this? How do we start

changing the culture?"

Multiple attendees agreed that starting with leadership is the first step to fixing these problems. A member said if leadership shows a vested interest and the courage to handle these situations, people will see that, and it will encourage them to speak up.

Another participant added that there is no place for racism in the Air Force.

"We cannot train racism away," she said. "Racism is in your heart — that's evilness in the heart ... It's everybody against racism. It has to be."

An attendee said in the time she's been in the military, she has never had the opportunity to discuss issues like these, especially with senior leaders.

"These tough conversations have shined the light on a lot of issues in the military," she said. "If we're okay talking about the small issues, you make us comfortable to talk about the serious issues."

Miller reiterated that cultivating an inclusive environment built on dignity and respect is a significant part

of the wing's lines of effort.

"Everybody has to do their part," Snider added. "The organization is so big. When you see something wrong, you have to have the courage to do something about it."

Senior leaders from the 502d ABW have on-going processes to tackle these issues, and they encourage personnel to reach out and share any concerns within their organizations to ensure there is accountability at every level.

The Tough Conversation roundtable was implemented to focus on important, challenging and impactful topics that affect the Air Force and DOD. This series fosters an open and candid dialogue between 502d ABW senior leaders, service members and civilians of all ranks and backgrounds.

The next Tough Conversations discussion on this topic is scheduled for March 9 at JBSA-Lackland. If you would like to participate, please discuss with your leadership.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Q. Is there some/any movement on allowing families to attend Basic Military Training graduation again? Is it possible to reduce the number of attendees per trainee?

A. Thank you for your question and



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your Airman's service. At this time we do not have any plans to open up graduation ceremonies to in-person audiences.

The health and safety of our trainees, staff and family members are our top priorities. Please watch the ceremonies free via live-streaming on our Facebook

page at <https://www.Facebook.com/usaftbmt>.

Q. My wife and I received our first COVID dose today at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. It only took about one hour.

Your Airmen and staff were very courteous and helpful. I know most of them had other jobs to do, but they performed without complaining. They were outstanding representatives for WHASC and the U.S. Air Force.

A. We appreciate the feedback! Our Airmen are always poised and ready to deliver the highest level of patient care!

Since the arrival of the vaccine, we have continued to implement process improvements with safety and efficiency in mind.

We will pass along your gratitude to the Airmen working diligently on the COVID-19 vaccine line.

Joint Base San Antonio Volunteer of the Year Awards submission of nominations deadline March 15

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio Military & Family Readiness Centers are accepting nominations for the annual JBSA Volunteer of the Year Awards until March 15.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards recognize individuals who contributed their time and service to JBSA units and volunteer organizations in 2020, including all branches of the military, and who made a significant positive impact on the lives of others.

Individuals who are eligible for the awards include active duty members, military family members, military retirees, Department of Defense civilians and contractors, as well as non-military affiliated volunteers.

Anyone, whether they are a JBSA



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commander, supervisor, service member or civilian, can nominate an individual or group affiliated with JBSA for the award.

Information about the awards, nomination instructions and forms

may be found at <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/Volunteer-Resources/>.

Nomination forms may be submitted by email to this address: usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss

-volunteer @mail.mil.

Award winners will be honored at the 2021 JBSA Volunteer Awards Ceremony April 21. The event will be live-streaming on the JBSA Facebook page starting at 3 p.m.

JBSA's civil engineers power through, continue repairs after brutal storms

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During the historic articial blast last week at Joint Base San Antonio, civil engineers at the Department of Defense's largest joint base fielded more than 1,200 calls. From those calls, 1,125 emergency work tasks were created.

"Our personnel, from the Emergency Management Control System, customer service unit, service contracts, and 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron leaders, have been working through the calls throughout this record event," said Lara A. Schoenenberger, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron deputy director.

"Special thanks go out to all the crews that came in and stayed at each JBSA installation for several days in order to provide quick 24/7 responses to all 266 Mission Partners across JBSA," she said. "We sincerely appreciate that these team members sacrificed time from their families and homes during this time to ensure JBSA was able to continue to operate and support the thousands of Soldiers and Airmen living in dorms and the housing communities.

"The road crews stayed ahead of each phase of the storm and JBSA roads and bridges were always de-iced and sanded," Schoenenberger said. "Our shop teams have been working around the clock responding to no heat, no water, no power calls, repairing burst or frozen plumbing, moving port-o-johns to dorms with no water, and picking up trash in between calls, since trash service stopped with the local landfills closed."

Schoenenberger also expressed thanks to the Emergency Management Control System and the



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

Samuel Burrell Sr. (left) and Troy Cook, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron maintenance mechanics, work during the demolition phase of reconstruction Feb. 25 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The damage was caused by recent severe winter storms in the area.



JOSE A. TORRES JR.

Eddie Granados, a plumber with the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, loosens a pipe in order to stop water from leaking at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 19. Sub-freezing temperatures struck the region causing many pipes to burst throughout JBSA.

customer service unit, whom she said did a fantastic job fielding the deluge of calls and requests coming in, and dispatching the necessary

teams.

"Early in the week, we were dealing with the power outages and were in constant communication with CPS

Energy," she said. "We became aware of the destabilized grid in the middle of the night, and we immediately instructed EMCS to turn the temperature down in all buildings to 66 degrees."

Additionally, generators were turned on to reduce load demand on the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, grid even more, she said.

Across JBSA at least 350 buildings experienced minor to severe water damage

"Most of the water damage is coming from burst fire sprinkler lines, busted heating coils, and ruptured plumbing lines on the exterior walls or in attics," Schoenenberger said.

If tenants checked on facilities during the storms, CE was notified about damages quickly, and several water leaks were discovered as crews passed by and saw water coming out a front door, or if

the crew was responding to a leak — they would start checking the adjacent buildings, she said.

Chiller plants on both JBSA-Randolph and Port of San Antonio had major water leaks, with JBSA-Randolph's 1.2 million gallon capacity nearly drained because of them.

"The sensors froze and broke, so the pumps have to be manually turned on and off to maintain chilled water flow to keep facilities and server rooms cool," Schoenenberger said.

Repairing the damage and getting back to normal will take time, for both JBSA and the region.

"The weather may have switched back our normal South Texas winter of sunny days and chilly nights, but the storm damage remains,"

Schoenenberger said. "Finding the leaks and ordering or fabricating the needed parts is the stage we are in. It will take the entire 502nd team to focus all of our efforts on storm damage response and recovery efforts. There is plenty of work for each of us."

As recovery efforts continue, other leaders in the 502nd CES applaud their teammates for the work they accomplished during the crisis.

"I could not be prouder of the women and men of the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron who, during the harshest conditions, were securing water breaks, responding to facility alarms, and keeping JBSA roads safe to drive on," said Roger Wilkson, the squadron's executive director. "Without hesitation, our professionals headed out in extreme cold and on dangerous roadways to protect the infrastructure and facilities across JBSA. Though the damage is great, it could have been much worse without the 502nd CES Superheroes!"

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Brooke Army Medical Center offers COVID-19 vaccine to beneficiaries 75 and older

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center will begin administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to beneficiaries ages 75 and older by appointment only at its Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston vaccination site.

As part of the Defense Department's phased plan, BAMC also continues to administer the vaccine to eligible phase 1a and phase 1b personnel, including healthcare professionals, personnel who perform critical national capabilities, service members preparing to deploy and frontline essential workers.

"We are very pleased to extend this time to our higher-risk beneficiaries while still administering the vaccine to critical military units and medical personnel," said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Shan K. Bagby.

Making an Appointment

Vaccinations will be administered by appointment only. Appointments for eligible 1a and 1b military and civilian personnel will be coordinated by their unit/chain of command.

Beneficiaries ages 75 and older have two options for booking an appointment as of Feb. 25:

Option 1. Visit the TRICARE Online Patient Portal. This internet site offers beneficiaries 24/7 access to make appointments quickly and conveniently. To access the portal, visit <https://www.tricareonline.com> and click "Log In" using one of the following credentials: a DS Logon Premium (Level 2), DoD Common Access Card, or Defense Finance and Accounting Services MyPay login. To obtain DS Logon credentials, click "Register."

To make an appointment, click "Appointments" on the portal home page. Click "Make Appointment" on the top left and follow the instructions. For additional online appointment instructions, visit



STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

A medic from the 59th Medical Wing vaccinates a San Antonio Military Health System beneficiary Feb. 6 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

<https://tricare.mil/FindDoctor/AllProviderDirectories/Military/SecurePatientPortal/OnlineAppointing>.

Option 2. Call the Consult Appointment Management Office, or CAMO. Beneficiaries can call 210-916-9900 or 1-800-443-2262, Option 8, Mondays through Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please keep in mind that hold times may be longer than usual.

Vaccination Site

The COVID-19 vaccination site is not on the BAMC Campus; it is located on main post JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in the Training Support Center, building 410, 2536 Garden Avenue — up the road from the Capt. Jennifer Moreno Clinic. BAMC repurposed this site to offer beneficiaries better vaccine access and safety.

"This site has enabled BAMC to increase its throughput while offering a convenient location for our beneficiaries," said Maj. Jared Brynildsen, BAMC COVID-19 vaccination program officer in charge. "The larger facility also ensures people

can maintain physical distancing throughout the vaccination process."

A face covering is required to enter the facility. Once the vaccine is administered, individuals will need to remain in the vaccination area for 15 to 30 minutes depending on health history for observation. During check out, they will be offered the opportunity to book an appointment for their second dose, which is administered at or around the 21-day mark.

Across town, the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center is also currently vaccinating eligible phase 1a and 1b personnel, to include beneficiaries ages 75 and older. Due to high demand, all 75 and older appointments at WHASC are filled at this time.

Down the Road

Following Phase 1b personnel, the San Antonio Military Health System, or SAMHS, will later expand its efforts to include Phase 1c, which encompasses eligible beneficiaries age 65-74 and beneficiaries age 16 and older at increased risk for severe illness as

outlined by the Centers for Disease Control.

For detailed information on the Department of Defense's phased plan, visit <https://www.health.mil/About-MHS/MHS-Toolkits/COVID-19-Vaccine-Toolkit/COVID-19-Vaccine-Who-Can-Get-the-Vaccine-First>.

About the Vaccine

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

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

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

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

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

For information on the SAMHS vaccine program, visit <https://www.jbsa.mil>, or follow BAMC or WHASC on social media. Additionally, BAMC will host a Facebook Live COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall on March 9 at 1:30 p.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/BrookeArmyMedicalCenter>.

BAMC part of EPICC study into COVID-19 impacts on DOD personnel

By Military Health System Communications Office

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program is leading a multi-year study to identify risk factors for COVID-19 in the military population, understand the symptoms and disease course, and investigate clinical outcomes. Brooke Army Medical Center is one of 10 military medical treatment facilities throughout the United States where the study is being conducted.

Epidemiology, Immunology, and Clinical Characteristics of Emerging Infectious Diseases with Pandemic Potential - or EPICC - study hopes to inform the Military Health System on ways to improve the patient care and treatment, infection, and disease prevention of those with COVID-19. USU is working in partnership with a network of military commands, treatment facilities, and laboratories across the country for EPICC.

Findings from the study "will support further understanding of the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on active-duty readiness, acute and chronic clinical outcomes, the effectiveness of new treatments and vaccines, and address questions related to the emergence of new variants and their clinical impact," said Dr. Brian Agan, deputy science director of IDCRP and principal investigator of the study.

The study is also evaluating how long the immune response to the COVID-19 vaccines lasts, breakthrough infections - which happen when a vaccinated individual becomes sick from the same illness the vaccination is designed to prevent - and how they behave over time and estimating vaccine effectiveness, said Agan, who is also an employee of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc.

Department of Defense service members and MHS beneficiaries of any age with COVID-19-like illness who are admitted to the hospital or treated as outpatients at an EPICC site can join. Likewise, those 18 years or older who have been tested for COVID-19, whether they tested positive or negative, can participate in the online portion of the study, which includes self-collected blood specimens for selected participants.

The protocol was recently updated to also enroll COVID-19 vaccine recipients and will initiate recruitment upon approval, said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Timothy Burgess, program director of IDCRP, who oversees the study. Eligible beneficiaries who are interested in participating in EPICC can submit an online screening form to join.

"In addition, asymptomatic individuals with a high risk of exposure are also eligible for enrollment in EPICC, which includes health care workers and close contacts of cases," Burgess said. "Particularly, health care workers who have received a COVID-19 vaccination will be an important population for studies to examine vaccine effectiveness and outcomes."

Data from inpatient, outpatient, and online participants, including their clinical characteristics,

comorbidities, the clinical course of their illness, treatment, immunology, and outcomes, is being collected for the study.

"Questionnaires are provided to enrollees to collect information on demographics, symptoms at initial presentation and chronic or persisting symptoms during follow-up, exposure history, and lifestyle factors," Burgess said. "Clinical and research specimens collected from enrollees are examined using molecular, serological, and other immune assays in collaboration USU and non-USU partner laboratories."

Initiated in March 2020, EPICC is expected to continue enrolling participants at least through March 2022, or for as long as needed to fill in the knowledge gaps related to this disease, explained Agan.

"Once enrolled, participants are actively followed for one year to fully capture specimens and data including chronic outcomes and sequelae and will be followed for up to four additional years through electronic medical record review," Agan said.

EPICC is being conducted at 10 military medical treatment facilities throughout the United States:

- Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas
- Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas
- Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
- Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia
- Naval Medical Center San Diego, San Diego, California
- Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii
- William Beaumont Army Medical Center El Paso, Texas
- Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

By the first week of February, more than 1,600 active-duty service members and MHS beneficiaries had enrolled in EPICC, the majority of whom are being treated as outpatients, said Agan. Approximately half of the subjects with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 diagnoses included in EPICC are active-duty service members.

Some interesting observations the researchers found thus far are that the characteristics of hospitalized COVID-19 patients compared to those treated as outpatients have shown a higher proportion of comorbidities, with hypertension, diabetes, and obesity being most prevalent, said Agan. In fact, their findings have begun to identify why obesity is a risk factor for more severe disease.

They were also able to garner valuable insight into the risk of reinfection from a military health care worker enrolled in the study who was reinfected with a symptomatic case of COVID-19.

"A median time to recovery has been identified as 14 days, with nine lost duty days among active-duty



RICARDO REYES-GUEVARA

Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Cambern holds up a numbered sign as patients circle through to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Operation Warp Speed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Jan. 14.

service members," Agan said. "These findings not only support operational planning, but also provide an important baseline to evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines as uptake widens across the DOD."

They also found that the antibody levels that cause immunity remain in individuals for more than six months post-infection and that there were no "seroreversions" after six months post-infection. Seroreversion is the loss of serologic reactivity, or the presence of a particular antigen in the blood, whether spontaneous or in response to therapy.

"With ongoing concerns about the magnitude and duration of immunity post-infection, our findings were both surprising and a relief," Burgess said.

The researchers hope the information on the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines will alleviate concerns and encourage individuals to be vaccinated. And as the vaccine rollout expands to more recipients, the study will benefit from recruiting participants among the growing population of vaccinated recipients.

"This will enhance our ability to evaluate vaccine effectiveness in the population and if other reports showing high levels of protection are confirmed, our work may help boost confidence among those who are less certain," Burgess said. "We are excited about the ability of the EPICC study to answer key questions for patients, health care providers, and leadership to guide decisions as we steer through the coming months of this unprecedented and historic pandemic."

Registration open for MICC nationwide industry outreach

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Registration is open through March 12 at beta.SAM.gov for the virtual Mission and Installation Contracting Command Advance Planning Briefing for Industry taking place March 22-26.

MICC officials announced in November the virtual APBI event as their single, command-wide effort for 2021 to reach small business and large industry representatives and forecast 2021, 2022 and 2023 contract requirements in support of varied Army mission partners.

The event's first day includes briefings by the MICC commanding general, deputy to the commanding general, supported Army mission partners, and director of the Army Office of Small Business Programs.

The following two days, March 23 and 24, are dedicated to briefing forecasted requirements by the top North American Industry Classification System codes and sectors beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day.

Industry sectors briefed March 23 will include NAICS Sector 23 Construction and NAICS Sector 56 Administrative and Support, and Waste Management and Remediation Services.

Forecast requirements briefed March 24 include NAICS Sector 54 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. Additional contracting



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requirements covered on the third day include NAICS Sectors 21, 22, 32, 48, 54, 52, 53, 61, 62, 71, 72 and 81.

The MICC will conduct industry days on the fourth and fifth days of the event. Requirements in support of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center multiple-award indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract as well as U.S. Army Sustainment Command full food service contracts will be discussed March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On March 26, requirements in support of the

Fort Polk Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana will be discussed from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

While the virtual APBI does not permit time for small and large business representatives to engage with contracting officials and their supported mission partners, the MICC is partnering with the Virginia Procurement Technical Assistance Center to conduct virtual matchmaking April 19 and 20 at no cost. The deadline for limited registration is March 29.

Additional details and registration can be found at <https://virginiaptac.eccenterdirect.com/events/3067>.

Amy Ulisse, an assistant director for the office of small business programs at MICC Field Directorate Office Fort Eustis, Virginia, is leading planning efforts for the APBI.

"The purpose of the matchmaking is to connect industry with MICC acquisition professionals and our mission partners," she said. "The virtual sessions will allow industry representatives to share their capabilities and ask questions. It gives them face time, so to speak."

Government contracting officers and contract specialists from throughout the MICC will coordinate between large business prime contractors, small business representatives and Army organizations to facilitate matchmaking appointments to discuss capabilities.

For more information on the APBI, visit beta.SAM.gov or email usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.list.hq-sbs-2021-apbi@mail.mil.

MICC commanding general to lead Army Contracting Command

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION
CONTRACTING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Army chief of staff announced Feb. 23 the selection of the commanding general for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command as the next leader of the Army Contracting Command and identified the next MICC senior leader.

Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler will assume command of ACC at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, from Maj. Gen. Paul Pardew in the coming months while Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey will take command of the MICC. Lowrey is coming to the MICC from Redstone Arsenal where he serves as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command.

Beeler has served as the MICC senior leader since July 2019 and has guided the command through its acquisition standardization efforts with category



COURTESY PHOTOS

Army officials announced the selection of the Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler (left) as the next commanding general of the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and identified Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey (right) as the next Mission and Installation Contracting Command senior leader.

management, forging strategic alliances with supported mission partners as well as postured contingency contracting support in the Army's response to the pandemic.

Lowrey has led USASAC since August 2020 after serving as the director of contracting for the office of the assistant

secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology in Washington. USASAC leads the Army Materiel Command security assistance enterprise, develops and manages security assistance programs and Foreign Military Sales cases to build partner capacity, supports combatant command

engagement strategies, and strengthens U.S. global partnerships.

Command of the MICC will mark the fourth assignment of the incoming commanding general to the organization. He has served as a contingency contracting officer at Fort Hood, Texas, in the MICC's legacy organization, the Army Contracting Agency, from December 2004 to December 2005. He next served as the executive officer for the 901st Contracting Support Battalion from June 2006 to June 2008 before returning to the 901st CBN at Fort Hood in June 2010 to serve as commander until July 2013. His operational assignments include deployments in support of Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Intrinsic Action.

Lowrey was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1994 after graduating from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was

promoted to brigadier general in September 2020, making the Oklahoma native of Cherokee descent the only Native American general officer on active duty.

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command consists of about 1,500 military and civilian members who are responsible for contracting goods and services in support of Soldiers as well as readying trained contracting units for the operating force and contingency environment when called upon.

As part of its mission, MICC contracts are vital in feeding more than 200,000 Soldiers every day, providing many daily base operations support services at installations, facilitate training in the preparation of more than 100,000 conventional force members annually, training more than 500,000 students each year, and maintaining more than 14.4 million acres of land and 170,000 structures.

ARNORTH to oversee military vaccination support to FEMA in Florida, Pennsylvania

By U.S. Army North
(Fifth Army) Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 780 Department of Defense military medical and support personnel are deploying to Florida and Pennsylvania to support five state-run, federally-supported Community Vaccination Centers, or CVCs.

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

"Supporting FEMA and these states by delivering vaccinations to Pennsylvanians and

Floridians is a team effort," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. "Four of the six service branches will help our federal and state partners in these new vaccination centers, giving more people access to vaccines."

In Florida, 556 service members will support four, 139-person, Type 2 Teams in four cities.

One team from the U.S. Army will support the CVC at Valencia College-West Campus in Orlando, while another U.S. Army team supports the CVC at Miami Dade Community College (North Campus) in Miami.

Additionally, one team from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will support, respectively, the

CVCs at Gateway Mall in Jacksonville and at the Tampa Greyhound Track in Tampa.

In Pennsylvania, one, 222-person, Type 1 Team from the U.S. Marine Corps will support the CVC at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia.

According to FEMA, a Type 1 Team is capable of administering up to 6,000 vaccinations a day, while a Type 2 Team is capable of administering 3,000 vaccinations per day.

These military medical and support personnel join others in California, New York, Texas, New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands already supporting the whole-of-government vaccine response.



PFC. GARRISON WAITES

U.S. Army Spc. Jeb Hoover, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, vaccinates a California community member at the walk-up vaccination site at California State University Los Angeles in California Feb. 20.

LACKLAND

343rd TRS Airmen soar in joint air operations

By Col. Kjäll Gopaul

HEADQUARTERS AIR EDUCATION
AND TRAINING COMMAND

Airmen from the 343rd Training Squadron/Operating Location-A teamed with National Guard Soldiers and Air Force Reservists to strengthen their warfighting skills and joint partnerships with a medical evacuation, or MEDEVAC, exercise Jan. 9 and a sling load exercise Jan. 27.

The first exercise was an impressive day-long display of Total Force, tri-service MEDEVAC synergy as 16 patient/actors were MEDEVAC'd from Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis to JBSA-Chapman Training Annex.

This joint cooperation was in full display when a Marine was hoisted up by a team of active duty 343rd TRS medics to a waiting Texas Army National Guard air ambulance crew from Company C, 2-149 Aviation "Alamo Dustoff" hovering overhead in a Black Hawk helicopter. They were then subsequently flown by Reservists from the 433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron for treatment and ground transport to higher-tier care. One of the key components is the 9-line MEDEVAC request — a formatted radio message for front-line troops to request medical care.

Tech. Sgt. Casey Pritchett, 343rd TRS/OL-A, NCOIC for Medical Operations, outlined his team's involvement.

"We participated with four independent duty medic technicians (IDMTs) and four 4Ns (aerospace medical service specialists)," Pritchett said. "We MEDEVAC'd moulaged patients from multiple landing zones throughout JBSA-Camp Bullis, we did 9-line call-outs on



CAPT. CASEY VOSS

Air Force medics from the 343rd TRS/OL-A transfer a patient-actor onto a waiting "Alamo Dustoff" air ambulance UH-60 Black Hawk operated by Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from Company C, 2-149 Aviation as part of a joint medical evacuation exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Jan. 9.

tactical radios, and conducted LZ signaling with smoke and signal panels — the whole nine yards! And each time it culminated in active loading on the UH-60s."

Pritchett underscored the comprehensive preparation for the mission's multi-service aspects.

"Beforehand, we reviewed our tactical combat casualty care (TCCC) tactics, how to call in 9-line MEDEVAC requests, and the details of working with joint partners," he explained. "We need to understand how Army procedures may differ from our Air Force side, and while it would be generally about the same, they might use different terms. All of our extra reviewing and training really paid off when we teamed up with the Army out there in the field."

Army Sgt. 1st Class Dion

Cortez, Readiness NCO, for C/2-149 Aviation, Texas Army National Guard, Martindale Army Airfield, planned the patient scenarios for each MEDEVAC.

"For each injury, the ground unit sends up a 9-line MEDEVAC request that our unit receives," Cortez said. "After launch approval, the aircraft arrives at the point of injury, our flight medics conduct a patient-transfer with the ground unit, assess, then load the patient onto the aircraft, continue treatment, and evacuate the casualty to higher echelons of care."

Pritchett explained how the 343rd TRS team postured itself for the patient transfer.

"After an initial 9-line MEDEVAC request was sent in, there could be some time before an aircraft arrives, and the patient's condition or the tactical

situation can change. So, just as the aircraft was approaching, the ground medics gave an update report to the air ambulance team on what's happened since we called in the initial request," Pritchett said. "Now the air ambulance team knows what they are getting into and can prepare to receive the patient, either to perform the necessary medical interventions or sustain our interventions to get the patient safely back to the next tiered hospital."

Army Sgt. Sydni Smith, C/2-149 AV flight medic, elaborated on her role in receiving patients from the 343rd TRS.

"You find out what they saw, what treatments they've given, and confirm if those interventions are still in place and working," Smith said. "For instance, if they put a tourniquet on, make sure that

it's on right. The transfer can be fast-paced, so we have to monitor and re-evaluate the patient while flying in the back of the helicopter. You have to be prepared with what you need to get things done in place."

While the myriad MEDEVAC tasks can seem chaotic, the rapid-fire transfers were seamless to the simulated casualties. Marine Sgt. Robert A. DiEnno, an instructor-supervisor for the Military Working Dog Handlers Course at the 341st Training Squadron, offered his perspective as a patient/actor.

"Once the helicopter arrived, it was a really quick process getting loaded up safely and quickly. It was nice to see how everybody worked together, even though it was probably the first time these different units had ever met," DiEnno said.

"They all knew the same procedures from operating in the same environment, and that kept things going smoothly. After that, it was a quick flight over to Chapman Annex. As soon as we landed, the Army flight medic handed us over to the Air Force aeromedical staging team. Then they put us in a Humvee and drove us off to our simulated hospital."

Pritchett said his entire team felt great about the training.

"Our more junior members were able to cement their technical skills, build confidence working around active aircraft, and operationalize their classroom training," he said. "This is what we train for, and it really inspired confidence in my guys to be able to work with Black Hawks on a real-world aeroevac at JBSA-Camp Bullis. And we are able to share this knowledge and experience with students as well."

343RD TRS continues on 11

343RD TRS

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He added that it was important to be able to work closely with joint partners.

"It allowed us to discuss procedures — what's different, what we're doing well, where we can improve. We can sort things out now, where you may not have the time when caring for an actual casualty. That builds our knowledge base for future operations both in peacetime and in war. And those kinds of interactions ... well, you really can't put a price on them," Pritchett said.

Jumping forward two weeks, the 343rd TRS participated in an ambitious day-and-night sling load exercise with Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from C/2-149 Aviation and Air Force Reservists from the 26th Aerial Port Squadron. The two-day event saw the rigging and heliborne movement of more than 27,000 pounds of cargo and 14 personnel across JBSA-Chapman Training Annex.

Master Sgt. Matthew D. Dibenedetto, 343rd TRS/OL-A, NCOIC of Security Forces Intermediate Course, described the activities of the preparation day.

"On the first day, we started at Martindale Army Airfield to familiarize ourselves with the Black Hawk helicopter and receive a passenger safety briefing from the aircrew. We spent some time discussing the layout of the landing zone; then we sat inside the aircraft, practiced buckling up, and learned the loading and emergency procedures."

He said that afterward, they attended a class at the aerial port squadron warehouse, where they learned about rigging and inspecting sling loads, which were water barrels inside of A-22 cargo bags.

"I didn't have much familiarity with this part of the Air Force — loading aircraft — and I was looking forward to doing something new. I was surprised by the fine detail and thoroughness involved with putting the pallets and loads

together," Dibenedetto said. "While it's important to understand joint operations, we also benefit within our own service by understanding what other career fields do, to appreciate that we are all working hard to get the job done."

He added that the first day ended with hookup rehearsals as they organized into two-person teams consisting of a hookup person and a bracer. They practiced how to prepare the load, stand as a team against the rotor wash, perform the hookup to the aircraft, and conduct safety procedures.

"The next day, we flew from Martindale Army Airfield to JBSA-Chapman Training Annex," he said. "After landing, we linked up with the ground team, saw the pathfinder managing the aircraft, while the safety NCOs checked the hookup teams, and the hookup teams were performing last-minute checks on the loads."

Dibenedetto described that with each iteration, the two-person hook-up team would stand by their load as the Black Hawk helicopter approached. Prior to the hookup, the team ensured the breakaway ties were in place on the load, and that the load was safe for the helicopter. The bracer held his teammate by the shoulders against the rotor wash and also gave adjustment advice, as the hookup man waited for the opportunity to attach the load to the cargo hook of the aircraft hovering just five feet over them. The team verified the secure hookup, dashed to their safety point, took a knee, and gave a thumbs up to the Army aircrew to confirm their task completion.

Dibenedetto explained that the daytime and nighttime portions of the exercise operated differently.

"You could definitely feel the difference. Your senses are heightened in the dark. We had to be more careful with low visibility, and used additional safety procedures with glow sticks and reflective safety vests," he said.



TECH. SGT. CASEY C. PRITCHETT

Medics from the 343rd Training Squadron/OL-A prepare two patient-actors on the ground before being hoisted up to a hovering "Alamo Dustoff" air ambulance UH-60 Black Hawk flown by Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from Company C, 2-149 Aviation. The activity was part of a joint medical evacuation exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis Jan. 9.

"As a Defender, I was impressed by all of the proficiency and intense training required by the aircrews and ground crews to move each 2,000-pound pallet. I gained a lot of appreciation for what happens behind the scenes to ensure a successful re-supply. That same type of pallet that could be used to bring supplies and ammo to a security forces unit in the field, and now I understand what goes into making that happen," Dibenedetto said.

"I was able to rotate through all three positions — the hook-up, bracer, and safety NCO. It was awesome!" said Staff Sgt. William F. Torres, 343rd TRS/OL-A, Security

Forces Technical School instructor. "Everyone needs to know everyone else's position. You need to be diverse and know your wingman's role. As a team member for that first time, you are being tested in every way — cognitive, emotional, and physical. Your nerves are on edge as your 'fight or flight' response is present when a helicopter is hovering just a few feet above your head. You have to overcome any uncertainty, and allow your training to give you the confidence to accomplish the sling load tasks, and you have to trust everyone involved with the process."

"Looking back, I'm just amazed at the versatility of our military to use a helicopter to

overcome any terrain to move cargo," Torres added. "To hover a helo that low to ground and conduct a hookup is quite a feat for everyone involved. I was proud to be a part of this exercise. We were very proficient and very successful with the sling loads."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 John M. Schiavi, C/2-149 Aviation medical evacuation pilot, was the pilot in command for both exercises and offered the aviator's perspective on the action.

"The most standout portion was that we had participation from all parts of the military — active component, National Guard, Reservists, a Marine, Soldiers, and Airmen. To see that kind of joint interaction — coming together to accomplish a task, sharing how the services operate, and the cross-organizational cooperation — it's always a challenge, and everybody rose to the occasion."

Master Sgt. Zachary W. Hassay, 343 TRS/OL-A, NCOIC of JBSA-Camp Bullis Operations, remarked how these exercises have improved things for his unit's technical training of Defenders.

"These exercises align with our squadron's mission to train and develop world-class Defenders for the Air Force that enable service, joint and coalition missions. We have many tiers of training along the continuum of learning, and the missions give our cadre a wealth of experience for working around live aircraft with joint partners — which mirrors what our student Defenders will experience when they deploy downrange," Hassay said.

"Our cadre can now share this first-hand knowledge with our students — how a mission involves more than what a PowerPoint slide or classroom training can convey. They can impart the sense of urgency, the need to stay task-focused despite the distractions from aircraft noise and rotor wash, and working through the unfamiliar in joint operations with other services."

Duncan Field, Kelly's ties to Tuskegee Airmen's 49+1

By Minnie Jones

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When most people think of the Tuskegee Airmen, they remember the pilots and the P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft with the red tails they flew. However, many people were not aware of the Tuskegee Airmen's civilian force, who worked in the background and contributed to the now-famous Red Tails' success.

This group of men and one woman, who are also considered Tuskegee Airmen because of their contribution to the legacy of the "Original Tuskegee Airmen," began at San Antonio's Duncan Army Airfield.

This story is about the 49+1 Black civilians that supported the Tuskegee Airmen flyers, and most notably, about Wilber Miller, a Black man, and the team's leader, who was responsible for recruiting the 50 civilian African American workers from Kelly Field to Alabama to support a new air depot at Alabama's Tuskegee Army Airfield. Their jobs were to provide maintenance and admin support to Alabama's African American fighter squadron during its primary phase of training on aircraft for the legendary "Tuskegee Airmen."

Miller, a San Antonio native, was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War I. He also served with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Regiment on the Mexican border in the early 1920s. After service, in 1935, Miller obtained a job as a mechanic's helper (the only civil-service rating for which Blacks were eligible to work at the time) at the "air depot" at Duncan Field in San Antonio.

Although some people considered the aircraft mechanic a lowly job, they became known as the Air Force's backbone for flyers.

A document titled "The role of the Airplane Mechanic" summarizes the mechanic's



Members of the ground crew of a Negro fighter squadron of the 15th U.S. Air Force in Italy place a loaded wing tank on a P-51 Mustang before the group takes off on a mission escorting bombers over enemy targets. (Editor's note: photo and caption were pulled from the National Archives Catalog.)

importance.

"In the popular imagination, the aircrew member, particularly the pilots, are the aerial warfare heroes. However, everyone familiar with the reality of the situation, especially pilots and their fellow crew members realizes that his dependence upon the less glamorous airplane mechanic, the lowly 'grease monkey.'" (1)

These soon-to-be mechanics were taught "on the job" at various army installations to furnish logistical, ground support, and mechanical assistance to the 99th Fighter Squadron currently in training at the all-Negro flying school. (2) The bulk of airplane mechanics were trained mainly at two Air Service mechanic schools; one was located at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas, where Miller worked.

Finally, on April 24, 1942, under Miller's supervision, the 50 civilians that were trained through the U.S. Civil Service Commission at San Antonio Air Depot's Duncan Field were ordered to report to their new permanent duty station at the 309th Sub-Depot, at the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama. During that time, the airfield was under construction, and the home to the prestigious Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, and the home of the first black pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron and oddly enough; it was located within the heart of the Jim Crow South.

The 50 civilians continued their advanced training under white instructors as they established the new air depot at Tuskegee, providing ongoing maintenance support for the training aircraft used

by the now legendary "Tuskegee Airmen."

Upon returning from the war, the now-famous Red Tail pilots were recognized for breaking the military's racial barrier and performing outstandingly during the war. Their missions took them over Italy and enemy-occupied parts of central and southern Europe. Their operational aircraft were, in succession: Curtiss P-40 Warhawk, Bell P-39 Airacobra, Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, and North American P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft.

The Tuskegee Airmen's accomplishments did not go unnoticed by their peers and associates. They returned home bearing the honor they earned. According to the National Archives Foundation, "From 1941 to 1946, hundreds of African Americans successfully trained as pilots

at the Tuskegee Institute, serving with distinction throughout the war. They flew 15,500 combat sorties, including more than 6,000 missions for the 99th Squadron before July 1944. Sixty-six pilots lost their lives and were killed in action. Thirty-two were downed or became prisoners of war. Moreover, they received 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, eight Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars among the outfit. On July 1, 1949, the 99th Fighter Squadron disbanded, and its members were re-assigned to integrated organizations."

Their success was due partly to the support from the 309th Sub-Depot group working in the background.

Regrettably, without fanfare or recognition, the group of unsung heroes returned to San Antonio's Kelly Field sometime around the 1940s. However, they came back to civilian government positions such as custodial or menial-type jobs, rather than positions they qualified for and performed at the Tuskegee Army Airfield as logistic aircraft maintenance personnel.

Notwithstanding, in September of 1992, the Black Heritage Association honored all 49 men and one woman (Virginia Porter), who sustained and provided ground support and maintenance for the Tuskegee Institute's Pilot Flight School's formation in 1943, during World War II, at a luncheon at the Kelly Air Force Base Officer's Club. The event was documented in the San Antonio National Register, a weekly newspaper for the African-American community. (3)

"The formation of a flight school at Tuskegee was a major historical event. The pilots have received

2020 successes set stage for continued housing improvements

By Bethany Martin

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of the Air Force's effort to improve housing programs for Airmen, Guardians and their families scored some major victories in 2020, but housing officials say there is still much work to be done.

Armed with feedback from housing residents, leaders and project owners, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's housing programs branch set out to implement 51 housing improvement initiatives. To date, housing officials at AFCEC and across the Air and Space Forces have completed all but four of the initiatives, addressed more than 5,200 resident concerns and leveraged \$32 million to hire an additional 218 housing support staff.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center, a primary subordinate unit of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, manages the housing program across the enterprise.

"We went into 2020 with 51 initiatives and one major goal: ensure our Airmen, Guardians and their families have access to safe, healthy housing," said Robert Moriarty, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations. "We are proud of the strides we've made, but we have more to do, and we are always seeking to improve our programs and the quality of our housing."

The most significant improvements were focused on empowering residents with more input and more support to communicate and resolve concerns, said Col. Sara Deaver, AFCEC chief of housing programs.

"Maintaining relationships and having reliable feedback channels is integral to ensuring the well-being of our Airmen and Guardians," Deaver said. "Our first priority was making sure residents of our housing programs are heard loud and clear."



JACQUELINE COWAN

The Department of the Air Force's effort to improve housing programs for Airmen, Guardians and their families scored some major victories in 2020, but housing officials say there is still much work to be done.

Key initiatives focused on empowering residents, Deaver said, and included the development of a tenant bill of rights, creation and staffing of resident advocates, increased staffing at installation military housing offices, and revision of the annual Department of Defense Tenant Satisfaction Survey.

In February, the Department of the Air Force joined the other services in signing the joint bill of rights outlining 18 basic rights for housing tenants. The rights include comprehensive lease briefings, protection from inadequate housing standards, and accessibility to military legal assistance and accountability for prompt maintenance repairs.

All but four of these rights have been accepted and implemented by project owners and the Air and Space Forces are working with DOD officials and project owners to implement the four remaining

rights in 2021, Deaver said. They include a universal lease, resident access to a maintenance background report, formal dispute resolution process and process for segregating rent pending the outcome of a dispute resolution.

The annual tenant satisfaction survey has existed since the inception of the privatized housing program but was revamped in 2020 to bring it under the ownership of the Air Force to ensure it is independent and accurately gathers the concerns of residents.

The Air Force-funded survey recently closed and received a response rate of slightly over 30 percent. The data collected from the anonymous survey feedback will help the Air Force ensure each program allocates funds to properly address resident issues.

"A comprehensive, standardized survey is essential in restructuring the housing program," said Yvonne Brabham, Air Force Housing Division technical director. "The changes we make are guided by the personal experience of the residents."

In 2020, the Air Force filled 213 of 218 new installation housing support staff positions to improve resident experience and open clear communication channels between Airmen, Guardians and military housing offices at the installation level. Of these new hires, 58 are resident advocates, 145 are military housing office positions and 10 are supporting headquarters oversight functions.

"We are most excited about our resident advocates," Brabham said. "These professionals regularly interact with tenants, resolve housing issues, educate their peers and connect residents to on-base resources."

In 2021, the focus is on accomplishing more initiatives in the improvement plan, Deaver said.

"AFCEC is looking to build on 2020's successes. We have cleared some major milestones on this improvement journey," Deaver said. "I believe residents are seeing the benefit of these efforts and that's what really matters."

DUNCAN FIELD

From page 13

recognition, but this civilian support group has not been properly recognized, and the Black Heritage Association wishes to do so," said event chair Ella Saine.

Miller's contribution to the Air Force did not end with the Tuskegee Airmen. In 1944, Miller was recalled to San Antonio as the "Employee Counselor for Negroes," due to racial tensions of the greatly expanded and newly diverse civilian workforce of whites, Latinos, and African Americans, which threatened

to explode violently in the local community and the base. Miller was a member of Kelly's multi-ethnic Morale Committee. He also chaired the separate Negro Morale Committee.

In 1995, the Kelly Heritage Foundation placed Wilber B. Miller's bust, sculpted by Emilio Torres, in the "Ring of Honor" in Memorial Park at Kelly Air Force Base, now Port San Antonio.

Beneath the bust reads:

"In 1941, the War Department announced the creation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first all-African American combat unit in the Army Air Forces. This unit trained at Tuskegee Institute

in Alabama. Fifty African American Kelly workers of "49 men and 1 woman" left Texas to serve as mechanics and support personnel for the Tuskegee Flying School. The team leader for this "49+1" group from Kelly was Wilber Miller. The spirit and dedication of these trailblazers are a continuing legacy and a reminder of the heritage of service to our nation shared by all of Kelly's African-American personnel. (4)

Currently, the bust of Miller and plaque has been moved and placed in storage due to upgrading the Ring of Honor Memorial. It will not be on display until further notice.

The 50 members' names are

Claude Ammons, Harry Barnes, Jessie Bonner, Thomas Butler, Jr., Amos Chandler, James Christopher, Bertha Coats, Vincent Collins, Lobiss Colman, Albert Colvin, Jessie Colvin, Clarence Dean, Charles Dearman Jack Dilworth, Clifton Dorn, Edward Doyle, Monnie Duncan, Walter Fielder, Marshall Fletcher, Arthur Gabriel, Pink Harris, Lloyd Harris, Leslie Harris, Admiral D. Howard, Herbert Johnson, Idell Johnson Jack Johnson, Emory S. King, Lorenzo Knowles, O.B. Lewis, Belton Littlefield, Clair Mathis, Willie Mathis, John Miles, Jr., Wilber Miller, Earlie McNeal, Virginia

Porter (the only woman in the group), Norman Powell, Rufus Priestly, Coyle Rice, Lonnie Saunders, Simmons Shaw, Bunton Smith, Henry Stillwell, Jr., Otis Street, Ollie Watson, Vernon Wilborn, Thelbert Williams, and Clarence Wilson.

► Footnotes:

- 1) <https://www.afhra.af.mil/Portals/16/documents/Studies/1-50/AFD-090602-053.pdf>
- 2) <https://ecctai.wildapri3cot.org/tuskegee-admin-tech-ground-support>
- 3) <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph399371/?q=September%2017>
- 4) <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=59349>

59TH MEDICAL WING MEDICS VOLUNTEER TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 VACCINE

A group of 59th Medical Wing nurses and medical technicians administer the COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 2 at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Since the arrival of the Pfizer vaccine to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on Dec. 14, 2020, more than 50 nurses and medical technicians have volunteered to administer the vaccine.

Donning badges labeled "injector," these Warrior Medics sanitize their hands, put on gloves and administer the COVID-19 vaccine before de-gloving, sanitizing and starting the process all over again, patient after patient. With the vaccination process taking a minute or less per patient, the vaccinators average using 10 bottles of hand sanitizer and about 20 to 30 boxes of gloves in a weeks' time as they continue to work through the Department of Defense's vaccination distribution strategy.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

RANDOLPH



COURTESY PHOTO

A photo taken from a drone shows Seguin Auxiliary Airfield as a resource staging area on Feb. 24. Through the collaborative efforts of Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Department of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 202 trucks of water, for a total of 3,434 pallets or 137,360 cases of water, have been distributed from the airfield thus far.

“The 12th Operations Support Squadron is always ready to step up and support during natural disasters.”

**Geren Fawver, 12th Operations Support Squadron
Seguin Airfield manager**

JBSA units support disaster relief efforts at Seguin Auxiliary Airfield

By Sabrina Fine
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Seguin Auxiliary Airfield became a resource staging area Feb. 20 to provide relief to victims of winter storm Uri which brought sustained freezing temperatures to Texas.

Through the collaborative efforts of Texas A&M Forest Service, Florida Forest Service, Texas Department of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 202 trucks of water, for a total of 3,434 pallets or 137,360 cases of water, have been distributed from the airfield thus far.

Before emergency operations began, members of the 12th Operations Support Squadron prepared for the arriving personnel

and supplies.

“The 12th Operations Support Squadron is always ready to step up and support during natural disasters,” said Geren Fawver, 12th OSS’s Seguin Airfield manager. “We cordoned off the Southwest corner of the airfield to allow setup of the operations for their winter storm relief efforts. This included setting up physical barriers on the airfield to allow the 12th FTW to continue safely conducting their flying training mission.”

The airfield is typically used by the 12th Flying Training Wing for its instructor pilot training mission.

During emergency operations, 74 trucks full of meals ready to eat, or 1,490,400 meals, were distributed, and that effort is ongoing.

Joint Base San Antonio Security Forces members also contributed to the operation.

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Ebeling, 902nd Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent said members of the 902nd worked in shifts to initially secure the site Feb. 20 and 21 when FEMA personnel arrived and until the Texas Department of Public Safety took over security operations.

Currently, the Emergency Management Teams are continuing the 24-hour relief effort to deliver supplies to Texas counties that remain in need.

Joint Base San Antonio is comprised of three primary locations at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, plus eight other operating locations and more than 200 mission partners. The Air Force’s 502nd Air Base Wing manages the operations of the joint base, which supports about 47,000



BRIAN J. VALENCIA

Staff Sgt. Saul Nava (left) and Tech Sgt. Andre Bolden (right), members of the 902nd Security Forces Squadron, provide security for the Federal Emergency Management Agency at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph’s Seguin Auxiliary Airfield in Seguin Feb. 20.

service members. Missions in San Antonio include Air Force basic training and special

warfare training, as well as a variety of Army medical training.



Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, Nineteenth Air Force commander, speaks to the various Pilot Training Transformation initiatives during his opening remarks at the Flying Training Virtual Industry Day at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 24.



PHOTOS BY ARYN LOCKHART

Maj. Gen. Craig Wills (left), Nineteenth Air Force commander, discusses the various requests for information to industry during his opening remarks at the Flying Training Virtual Industry Day at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 24.

AETC, Nineteenth Air Force host first Flying Training Virtual Industry Days to address pilot shortages

By Aryn Lockhart
NINETEENTH AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command, in partnership with the Nineteenth Air Force, hosted the Flying Training Virtual Industry Days at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 24 and 26.

The event provided an overview of the current state of Air Force flying training and sought industry insight and perspectives to address pilot shortages and improve the US Air Force's Pilot Production programs.

The virtual event had more than 100 personnel registered from 43 different companies participating.

"The idea is to reach out to industry and see how you all

might be able to support, provide ideas, and provide information that will help us as we formulate our plans moving forward," said Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, Nineteenth Air Force commander.

"As you know, the pilot shortage is a worldwide phenomenon," the general said. "It's not strictly limited to the U.S. Air Force. All of our joint partners face many of the same challenges and so our hope with these RFI's (requests for information) is that we can get information from you that will help inform the plans that we have"

Day one of the event was a program overview and described the specific requests for information. Day two was an open discussion with a question-and-answer session

"The training programs we are really looking for are to help every single Airman achieve his or her potential."

Maj. Gen. Craig Wills,
Nineteenth Air Force
commander

for industry to address specific inquiries about these innovation opportunities.

The areas of interest include:

- ▶ Commercial Services Contract Undergraduate Pilot Training Multi-Engine (CUPT-ME)
- ▶ CUPT/Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) Undergraduate Pilot Training

(UPT) 2.5 (CUPT-2.5)

▶ Initial Contract Flight Training 2.5 (IFT 2.5) 50 Hour Syllabus

▶ Contractor Instructor Pilot (CIP)/Contractor Simulator Instructor (CSI)

▶ Introductory Flight Training-Rotary Wing (IFT-R)

During his opening remarks, Wills outlined the Pilot Training Transformation efforts throughout the Nineteenth Air Force, discussing the significant changes in how pilots are produced with a more learner-centric training model.

"The training programs we are really looking for are to help every single Airman achieve his or her potential," Wills said. "We have a different mentality that says, why don't we teach folks as much as

possible so they are as proficient as possible."

The Flying Training Virtual Industry Days were a unique chance for industries to communicate directly with Nineteenth Air Force. It also gave them a chance to understand the programs within Pilot Training Transportation, with the potential to create partnerships and collaborate, which could get to the heart of overcoming pilot production shortfalls.

"Your United States government is very much interested in coming up with solutions that are advantageous to the taxpayer," Wills added. "It is our goal to bring the very best that American industry brings to the table and we are not the only people that have good ideas."

Rambler Fitness Center staff members help protect patrons from COVID-19

By 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Staff members at the Rambler Fitness Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph remain vigilant, making sure the COVID-19 guidelines in place are followed.

The center can remain open to active duty, retirees, and dependents who are authorized to use the gym as long as they follow proper COVID-19 guidelines.

Visitors to the center must wear masks during their workout, unless using the track or treadmills, in order to minimize the potential spread of the virus.

Staff members working at the fitness center wipe off equipment after use to ensure cleanliness and protect customers.

Rambler Fitness Center recreational aids also remind patrons throughout the day to keep their distance from one another and wear their masks to ensure that all COVID-19 prevention guidelines are followed.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

Anove: Armando Torres (right), 502nd Force Support Squadron recreational aide, checks in Airman 1st Class Domanic Tyler, 56th Fighter Wing mass communicator, at the Rambler Fitness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 25.
Right: Armando Torres, 502nd Force Support Squadron recreational aide, cleans exercise equipment at the Rambler Fitness Center Feb. 25.

