

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MARCH 19, 2021



Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing help each other in donning mission-oriented protective posture gear March 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

433rd AW participates in readiness exercise

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MEDCoE Soldiers attend training

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Chapman honored at Airmen's Heritage Park

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Army Criminal Investigation Command cautions of increase in QR code scams

By Ronna Weyland

U.S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMAND

Behavior changes this past year to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have not been lost on criminals. The Army Criminal Investigation Command's Major Cybercrime Unit is cautioning users to be wary of suspicious quick response codes, known as QR codes.

According to the Major Cybercrime Unit, QR code usage increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While QR codes have been around for years, COVID-19 has led to a more touch-free interaction environment and people are seeing QR codes used more frequently and in new ways, such as in restaurants. The QR code printed on a single-use paper or on a table stand is scanned with a smartphone and replaces the multiple-use paper menu, wine list, or drink menu. With a quick scan, you can pull up a restaurant menu, make a payment, or jump right to a website URL.

Originally developed in the mid-1990s for manufacturing and inventory control, QR codes are seen in many places and used for many reasons. Most often, a QR code looks like randomly placed small black squares arranged in a borderless square. However, QR Codes can be customized with different colors and different backgrounds.

Regardless of how the QR code is deployed, the patron frames it in a smartphone camera to read it. The cameras on up-to-date smartphones read QR codes natively and open documents, making this technique fast and effective. However, cybercriminals can misuse QR codes. Although not rampant, QR code frauds and thefts are on the rise and developing in numerous ways, according to ThreatPost.com, a website about cybersecurity.

QR codes can:

- » Add nefarious contacts to the contact list.
- » Connect the device to a malicious network.
- » Send text messages to one or all contacts in a user's address book.
- » Complete a telephone call to a telephone number that imposes charges on the calling phone.
- » Send a payment to a destination where



KOONSIRI BOONNAK

Cybercriminals can misuse QR codes. Although not rampant, QR code frauds and thefts are on the rise and developing in numerous ways, according to ThreatPost.com, a website about cybersecurity.

it cannot be recovered.

The Major Cybercrime Unit warns a basic scam could be perpetrated by printing malicious QR codes on labels and sticking the labels to various publicly accessible surfaces. The curious passerby scans the code and is directed to a malicious website allowing damaging code to be downloaded to their computer or smartphone.

In a more complex scam, the QR codes can be used to make payments for goods and to execute money transfers. This tactic works when a recipient scans a QR code, enters an amount to transfer, and then executes the transaction. The following day, the person making the payments discovers all their financial accounts have been compromised.

To protect against theft, many of the standard cautions apply:

- » Be suspicious of unsolicited offers that seem too good to be true.
- » Do not open emails from unknown senders.
- » Ignore emails that ask you to provide

identifying information (usernames, passwords, dates of birth, etc.).

» Do not access financial accounts by clicking links received in unexpected emails. Rather, use verified links from your bookmarks.

Specific to QR codes:

- » Do not scan a randomly found QR code.
- » Be suspicious if, after scanning a QR code, a password or login information is requested.
- » Do not scan QR codes received in emails unless you know they are legitimate.
- » Do not scan a QR code if it is printed on a label and applied atop another QR code. Ask a staff member to verify its legitimacy first. The business might simply have updated what was their original QR code.

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams, and to review previous cybercrime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers visit the Army CID MCU website at <https://www.cid.army.mil/mcu-advisories.html>. To report a crime to Army CID, visit www.cid.army.mil.

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. How can I prevent my glasses fogging when I wear a mask?

Driving with a mask is unsafe because of the fogged glasses. Walking or even sitting at my desk

can be problematic.

Removing my glasses is not an option because I'm extremely nearsighted.

A. We are sorry you are experiencing difficulties wearing a mask. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or has a nose wire to help reduce fogging.

You can also consider using an antifogging spray that is made for eyeglasses. Please read more helpful information from the CDC at <https://go.usa.gov/xsNcM>.

Additionally, masks are required outdoors when the space is shared with others. If you are in your vehicle by yourself or with members of your immediate family only, a mask is not required.

When entering any JBSA



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installation, prepare to have your mask on while interacting with Security Forces or anyone else. Please see the full Department of Defense guidance at

<https://go.usa.gov/xsNcX>.

Thank you for your understanding, as it takes community-wide cooperation in the fight to slow the spread of COVID-19.

'You are important' - JBSA Suicide Prevention Program reaches out

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(Editor's note: If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide, please call the 24/7 Suicide Hotline at 800-273-8255.)

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Joint Base San Antonio Suicide Prevention Program has not stopped its life-saving efforts. They have simply reconfigured them to be flexible and meet people's needs during a difficult time.

"The Army Substance Abuse Program, or ASAP, is well-known for the variety of outreach training programs we provide, but in the wake of the pandemic, we have been faced with the obstacle of restructuring our business model to accommodate virtual outreach," said Hannah Jeanise, Suicide Prevention Program manager.

The team has developed a series of online courses for the JBSA community available at <https://agri.lifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=army-substance-abuse-program>.

The courses cover overcoming social isolation and loneliness, moral injury, suicide risk and concerns for

school-aged minors. Completion of these courses constitutes a continuing education credit for military service providers.

The program also offers webinars to help individuals cope.

"We currently have monthly webinars that cover many social issues under the general umbrella of resilience," said Marquette Kennedy, ASAP social media coordinator. "These webinars are truly amazing learning opportunities!"

Kennedy said the webinars also offer continuing education credit for social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, board-certified patient advocates, case managers and certified family life educators.

Additionally, the Army's Ask, Care, Escort — Suicide Intervention courses are being held monthly.

"We are following COVID-19 guidelines while having these courses face-to-face again," Jeanise said. "We have many opportunities for leaders to get trained to participate in our campaigns and program to raise awareness and create more effective, individual-driven interventions."

Both Jeanise and Kennedy stressed that the Suicide Hotline is the most accessible resource for individuals in distress and that nobody should feel hesitant about reaching out for help. The hotline number is 800-273-8255.

"One of the themes we see in our offices is, individuals feeling afraid of seeking counseling or some sort of treatment," Jeanise said. "The on-post and off-post resources are available, and we're doing our best to break the stigma that prevents people from reaching out."

One of the stigmas, unfortunately, is the belief that few people wrestle with suicidal thoughts.

"This IS normal," Jeanise stressed. "A concept that many people buy into is that senior leaders and peers have not or do not struggle with these thoughts or issues. They do! Seeking help is normal; feeling overwhelmed and alone at times is normal. Your life is worth living and you are important."

If you know anyone struggling with thoughts of suicide, Kennedy encourages becoming an ally.

"Reassure the individual of your genuine interest in their well-being and, more than anything, LISTEN,"

Kennedy said. "There is no universal message that can work the same for every at-risk individual, but what can work is taking the time to listen to their conflicts and reassure the individual that they matter."

"If you know someone who you think is struggling, intervene!" Jeanise said. "Asking about suicide feels scary, and the thought of hearing a 'yes' is frightening, but intervention works. Change is often uncomfortable and can feel unsettling, but it is temporary. I ask every person to challenge the stigmas they face every day. Asking one question could literally change the course of someone's life."

To learn more about ASAP Suicide Prevention training, visit https://military.agrilife.org/files/2021/03/ASAP-Suicide-Prevention-Training_2021_022521.pdf

(Author's editorial endorsement for counseling: I, the writer of this article, have struggled with thoughts of suicide and reached out for help several times. It was amazing, and talking things through really put me in a better frame of mind! Please do it if you're going through a hard time.)

Online educational, library resources available to JBSA children learning from home

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the home has become the classroom for many Joint Base San Antonio schoolchildren and students.

Students who are learning virtually from home or are being homeschooled have a variety of resources available online and through databases provided by JBSA libraries that can help them with their schoolwork and enhance their learning.

Nita Ford-Hightower, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Officer, said one online source, Tutor.com, is a free website that provides tutorial help to students in more than 100 subject areas from kindergarten to college.

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, is a program that provides on-demand, online tutoring and homework help at no cost to eligible service members, civilian personnel, and their dependents. With live, expert tutors available 24/7, military-connected students can receive academic help at their moment of need—anywhere they have an Internet connection.

To utilize the resources on Tutor.com, she said parents and students can sign up and register on the website.

Ford-Hightower said Tutor.com provides a personalized tutor who can help a student in subject areas they need help in. The site includes 3,000 tutors who are experts in their subject matter, with tutorials being conducted securely online.

“Tutor.com has a lot of resources that parents can connect to,” Ford-Hightower said. “If the child is having



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

problems in certain subjects, not only do they get the tutor, they also get the resources to help the child and to work with the child.”

JBSA children who are being homeschooled have several resources they and their parents can follow, Ford-Hightower said. Those include the Texas Virtual School Network, Texas Tech University K-12 and the University of Texas UT High School. The Texas Virtual School Network is administered by the Texas Education Agency, or TEA, and both the Texas Tech University K-12 and the University of Texas UT High School are approved by TEA.

Before selecting a program for homeschool students to follow, Ford-Hightower said parents should find out if the online program is accredited.

In addition, parents and children can utilize 50 online learning and educational sources through the online JBSA libraries database. The link to these sources is <https://www.jbsalibraries.org>

/databases.

Diana Lisenbee, JBSA-Randolph Library supervisory librarian, said the online library resources include databases on a variety of subjects for both children and adults.

A few of those online resources in the JBSA libraries database include Gale Academic, Mango Languages LearningExpress Library and OverDrive DOD.

Lisenbee said the Gale Academic database includes peer-reviewed articles and journals for middle and high school students who are doing research on subjects ranging from science and math to history to criminal justice.

“Gale has online resources that will support and promote research and help them with essays and papers,” Lisenbee said.

Mango Languages is a digital language learning program that provides lessons for students in more than 70 languages.

The program is based on speaking and

Customers can check out books, audiobooks or other materials on the JBSA library website for no contact delivery by calling the Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-4387; the JBSA-Lackland Library, 210-671-3610; and the JBSA-Randolph Library, 210-652-5578.

Library hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

conversation-based learning, with lessons going from basic to advance. During a lesson, a word will come onto the screen and a voice says the word. The student, using a microphone on a computer screen, will say the word and the program will tell the user if the pronunciation of the word was correct.

“It’s a phenomenal resource that is available to all of our customers,” Lisenbee said.

LearningExpress Library is a program that provides preparatory materials for exams including the College-Level Examination Program and for high school students, the college entrance exams including the Scholastic Aptitude Test, SAT and ACT.

Lisenbee said LearningExpress Library gives users the opportunity to prepare for the exams by learning the material and taking a mock test online.

“There is a multitude of college admission tests, high school equivalency tests as well as there are career and workforce preparation exams,” Lisenbee said. “From all of our customers we have talked to, they have said it has really meant a difference to them

because they didn’t have to buy a study book or they could check a study book out at the library, and using the Learning Express Library, they can study for the test and be successful.”

OverDrive is a Department of Defense resource that includes e-books and audiobook resources. The database, which includes Army and Air Force collections, totals over 500,000 online books.

Lisenbee said OverDrive provides e-book and audiobooks for schoolchildren who need help learning to read, are progressing in their level of reading or books that help children who have a learning disability such as dyslexia.

To access the JBSA library database, JBSA members, including active-duty members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees need to sign up and register for an account with JBSA libraries. They can do this through no-contact service at the Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 301 Harney Path; the JBSA-Lackland Library, 1930 George Ave.; and the JBSA-Randolph Library, 5th Street East.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the libraries reopened under HPCON Bravo + for curbside pickup for customers to pick up reserved materials and for computer use.

Customers can check out books, audiobooks or other materials on the JBSA library website for no contact delivery by calling the Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-4387; the JBSA-Lackland Library, 210-671-3610; and the JBSA-Randolph Library, 210-652-5578.

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KEMBERLY GROUE

U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training trainee, Chris-Ann Wilmoth, 37th Training Wing Det. 5, Flight 564, participates in a physical training session at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 1, 2020.

Air Force PT tests resume in July, more updates forthcoming

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Physical fitness assessments will now resume for Airmen on July 1.

Testing was initially delayed from October 2020 to April 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When assessments resume, the three-component fitness test (1.5-mile run, 1 minute of push-ups and sit-ups) will be reset with scores calculated on a new three-component scoring table. In addition, work is underway to separate scoring into five-year age groups as opposed to the previous ten — for example, age groups will start at <25, 25-29 years old, 30-34, years old, etc.

These changes come in addition to other modifications to the physical fitness assessment.

In December 2020, the waist measurement as a point-driven component of the fitness assessment test was removed. It will still be administered to determine compliance with body composition standards, as required by Department of Defense Instruction 1308.3.

As testing resumes, scores earned on the three-component fitness test will be redistributed. Final decisions on percentage component breakdowns will become available in June.

Additionally, the Air Force Fitness Working Group has explored alternatives to the testing components and scoring measures. As mentioned by Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. in December, there are on-going studies and reviews to determine a list of alternative strength and cardio components for the physical fitness assessment. For example, some alternative options being explored for the current components include the 20-meter High

Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (20M HAMR), row ergometry, planks, burpees and other alternatives.

If necessary, commanders may delay official fitness assessments beyond July 2021 based on the recommendation of local public health officials, the continuation of closed fitness centers and extended statewide restriction of movement and gatherings.

“We are also conducting a holistic review of policies associated with the physical fitness assessment program to determine if they are still a good fit for today’s Air Force,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

In addition to scheduled Air Force Fitness Management System (AFFMS II) maintenance and updates, the Air Force is exploring replacing the system with a newer, more flexible application.

In addition to the updates above, diagnostic testing is now available for Airmen to choose when they are ready to test. If an Airman completes a diagnostic physical fitness assessment or a mock test with the Fitness Assessment Cell or Physical Training leader, and passes, he or she can decide to make the mock test an official test score. According to AFMAN 36-2905, Air Force Physical Fitness Program, the FAC, PTL and Unit Fitness Program Manager are able to conduct the physical assessment for all Airmen, either inside or outside of their unit. If the member fails the mock test, it will not be officially counted.

Airmen may determine their next fitness assessment due date by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers.

Space Force will follow these policies until service-specific fitness policies are developed and fielded.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

MEDCoE AIT Soldiers attend Soldier in Transition Training

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Advanced Individual Training Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston are attending refresher training while in hold status. MEDCoE's Soldier in Transition Training, or SiTT, is a two-week program designed to refresh Soldier skills for hold Soldiers.

Hold Soldiers may include new arrivals to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston from Basic Combat Training who are waiting for the formal start to their AIT program of instruction, or Soldiers who have recently completed AIT and are awaiting travel to follow-on units of assignment.

SiTT lessons include a wide variety of areas from warrior tasks and battle drills to drill and ceremony, financial readiness and formal board procedures.

Dedicated instructors also touch on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, or TC3, and other medical tasks, said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Suarezcolon, SiTT noncommissioned officer in charge.

The program was informally established early in 2020 during the initial days of the Coronavirus pandemic when Soldier travel was temporarily halted.

Suarezcolon was selected to serve as the NCOIC in January 2021 and immediately formalized the program by establishing a standard operating procedure that includes having a dedicated drill sergeant presence throughout training and more hands-on training.

"Because we cover such a wide range of topics, the Soldiers enjoy being able to expand their knowledge," Suarezcolon said. "Trainees are able to master these skills without the hectic environment of basic training."

He believes SiTT is an especially beneficial preparation tool for those Soldiers transitioning into their military occupational specialty, or MOS, training but is also worthwhile for those Soldiers who are able to refresh their skills just before departure to their first duty station.

"With smaller groups than both basic and AIT, we were able to incorporate more opportunities for trainees to ask more detailed questions of instructors and drill sergeants in their specific MOS," Suarezcolon said.

Pvt. Drew Smoker, a 68D operating room specialist in training at the 264th Medical Battalion, attended SiTT when he arrived at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. He said he enjoyed the time in the program and was happy to trade downtime and Soldier details for the training.

"My day was filled with learning and review of information I believe I will need my whole Army career," Smoker said. "Another great part of SiTT was being able to hear firsthand experiences from the instructors on the lessons as well as their advice on how to make the most out of your Army career."

After speaking with many of the instructors, Smoker is now motivated to pursue the Expert Field Medical Badge, or EFMB, as he progresses in the Army.

"The instructors all talked about how it was difficult to earn and that it took demanding



COURTESY PHOTOS

Advanced Individual Training Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence during Soldiers in Transition Training receive instruction from Staff Sgt. Kelvin Suarezcolon (right), SiTT noncommissioned officer in charge at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 26.



Advanced Individual Training Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence demonstrate use of the sked and litter carriers during patient evacuation during Soldiers in Transition Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston last month.

preparation," Smoker said. "But if you are willing to study and persevere, earning the EFMB would put you a step ahead in your Army career."

Smoker, who received a MEDCoE coin for excellence from MEDCoE Command Sgt. Major Clark Charpentier for displaying exceptional

knowledge on medical tasks, is certainly on the right track.

His favorite part of SiTT was all of the hands-on instruction and lessons built into informal competitions like seeing who could put a hasty tourniquet on a casualty the quickest and sked stretcher or litter carry races.

"All of the little challenges motivated the class to remain engaged but also to see how the skills could be applied in real-world medical situations," Smoker said.

Since January, Suarezcolon, alongside his fellow MEDCoE instructors, has trained more than 500 Soldiers. Many hold Soldiers who would normally attend SiTT are supporting a recent tasker in support of Brooke Army Medical Center's vaccination program at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Vaccination Center.

"SiTT training was not designed to be concurrent, so Soldiers who miss a block of instruction for a tasker, for example, will pick back up with fellow hold students without missing a beat once the tasker is complete," Suarezcolon said.

Though wait times for hold Soldiers are less than when the pandemic began, Suarezcolon says there will always be a need to have quality training ready to go to ensure Soldier downtime is used productively.

"In a perfect world, Soldiers would only have a day or two on hold status upon arrival or after AIT," Suarezcolon said.

"However, when needed, I am proud to be on the team providing worthwhile training for skills that I know these Soldiers will look back on and appreciate at some time in the near future of their Army career."

Warrior Challenge talent scout helps Naval Special Warfare recruits get into shape

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In observance of Women's History Month, Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio recognizes the contributions of Senior Chief Petty Officer Kristal Pena, NTAG San Antonio lead Warrior Challenge Program talent scout.

Every morning, five days a week, Senior Chief Petty Officer Kristal Pena trains future Sailors to go beyond their limits to make it through one of the Navy's most elite programs.

Pena, a single mother with four daughters, is originally from Santa Ana, California, and is currently the Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio lead Warrior Challenge Program talent scout at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

In her role, she makes sure future Sailors, who are in the Warrior Challenge Program, or WCP, are physically fit to meet the rigorous standards of the program and are ready to pass the Navy Challenge Physical Standards Test, or PST, prior to going to boot camp.

The Navy uses the WCP to identify and develop future Sailors who are in the Delayed Entry Program for unique and demanding career fields in the Navy, including Naval Special Warfare, and Pena develops and supervises the workouts of those future Sailors at 7 a.m. every morning.

A former Navy drill instructor, Pena said she incorporates a boot camp-style into her workouts to push her future Sailors to go beyond their limits in meeting the high standards expected of them.

"Most of them don't know their potential until they come



BURRELL PARMER

Senior Chief Petty Officer Kristal Pena (right), the lead Warrior Challenge Program talent scout assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio, joined by talent scouts Petty Officers 1st Class Dectorio Huerta (center) and Chance Tahah (left), provide instruction to future Sailors within the Navy's Warrior Challenge Program at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 26.

to our program," Pena said. "We show them how much stronger they can be mentally and physically, and really, they have something to strive for. We set high expectations."

The 42-year-old Pena leads by example by participating in the strenuous workouts she plans for the future Sailors half her age.

"I don't feel I can be leading them if I can't do what they can do," Pena said. "I'm never going to tell my Sailor to do something physically if I can't do it. I'm not that type of

leader — because if I tell them they have to do a ladder of 200 pushups in a matter of 10 minutes, then I'm doing it with them."

Pena, who has 23 years of service in the Navy, started at NTAG San Antonio in 2019 as an officer recruiter and became the lead WCP talent scout in February 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic brought many challenges in how Pena trained and worked out the WCP future Sailors.

For nine weeks, because of restrictions, the recruits couldn't come on to the base to workout. They had to train at home from workouts posted online, she said.

Even during a pandemic, Pena said she still found ways to motivate the recruits and hold them accountable to the high standards they were expected to adhere to.

"We had to basically motivate these Sailors every day to keep going, to keep working out," she said.

Within six weeks after they

were allowed back on base, NTAG San Antonio was able to make their goals for WCP.

Pena started her Navy career as a radioman in 1997 and has served for 15 years on active duty. She also served as a recruit division commander, or drill instructor, for two duty assignments, and completed deployments to Africa, Japan, and Guam. She has been a member of the Navy Reserve for the last eight years.

In addition to her Reserve duties at NTAG San Antonio, Pena is also a certified firearms instructor and a federal law enforcement officer working with asylum seekers who want to become U.S. citizens.

As a woman serving in the Navy, Pena said she is thankful for the people who have guided her throughout her military career.

"I feel honored to have had great mentors who really believed in me to get me to the point where I'm at today," she said.

Now, she is passing on the knowledge she has gained as a senior enlisted mentor to female future Sailors and meets with them every month via Zoom.

She said they often ask her questions about her career, including how she ended up in the Navy, what to expect from being a woman in the Navy, and how her experiences in the Navy that can help them.

"I tell them that nothing is going to be handed to them," she said. "It's not going to be the easiest thing they've ever done, but it's the most rewarding thing. I kind of give them a perspective of what to expect and the best ways to come out of every situation positively, and taking all of those opportunities that come their way."

Medical Readiness Training Command hosts Best Warrior Competition

By Sgt. 1st Class Michele Uitermarkt
MEDICAL READINESS AND TRAINING COMMAND

Despite a massive snowstorm shutting down much of the state of Texas, the Medical Readiness Training Command and the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command hosted a Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis during the last week of February 2021.

Ten Army Reserve Soldiers continued their quest to earn the title of the top Soldier in their respective commands and the opportunity to compete for the title of the Army Reserve's Best Warrior.

The competition encompassed six days of grueling tasks designed by Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Lopes and 1st Sgt. Jorge Pimentel of the 4th ESC, both former drill instructors, along with a team of 37 cadre from the MRTC and 4th ESC.

"This type of competition builds the knowledge and confidence of the competitors," Pimentel said. "They have to prepare extensively and study and build their physical resilience. They are here to compete, but they are also here to learn lessons they can take back to their units."

The Soldiers participated in a series of rigorous tasks including the Army Combat Fitness Test, day and night land navigation, marksmanship, Army Warrior Tasks, a leadership reaction course, a written test, Drill and Ceremony, an obstacle course, a written essay, and a 14-mile road march. Each Soldier also appeared before a formal board.

"These Soldiers took time out of their life to be put through the wringer," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gessler of MRTC.

The winners will move forward to the next level of competition at their respective commands, the Army Reserve Medical Command and the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, to compete for the opportunity to attend the Army Reserve's Best Warrior Competition.

"It has been really fun, rewarding and extremely challenging. It's definitely physically demanding," said 1st Lt. Matthew Easley, 7305th Medical Training Support Battalion executive officer. Easley has participated in three Best Warrior



Sgt. Justin P. Kelleher, a human resources non-commissioned officer from the Army Reserve's 2nd Medical Training Battalion, simulates the treatment of a burn victim during the Medical Readiness and Training Command's Best Warrior Competition held Feb. 22-27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Competitions.

Spc. Jeff Wood, a Jonesboro, Arkansas native, was a member of the winning team of last year's group Best Warrior Competition from the Army Reserve's 90th Sustainment Brigade. He served as a cadre member for this year's competition.

"It really showed me that I could do more than what I thought I could do," Wood said. "These competitions really push your limits and you can take that to your everyday life. I didn't think I could go to college and do well, but after winning this competition last year, I learned that I

"It really showed me that I could do more than what I thought I could do. These competitions really push your limits and you can take that to your everyday life."

Spc. Jeff Wood, a member of the winning team of last year's group Best Warrior Competition

can do whatever I set my mind to do."

Each winner for their command was presented with an Army Commendation Medal and trophy by their commanding general and command sergeant major.

First Lt. Matthew G. Easley was named "Officer of the Year" for MRTC and Sgt. Justin P. Kelleher, representing the 2nd Medical Training Battalion, was named "NCO of the Year." Kelleher, a human resources NCO, will represent the MRTC at the next level of competition.

"Take that back to your Soldiers and encourage them to compete," said Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Marsiglia, MRTC commanding general. "You all are the future of the Army."

Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 4th ESC commanding general, recognized the 4th ESC winners.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas B. Downer from the 4th ESC received the "Officer of the Year" award. Sgt. David T. Barton, from the 327th Transportation Detachment, earned "NCO of the Year" and Spc. Edgar Gutierrez, of the 319th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, received the title of "Soldier of the Year."

MEDCoE hosts panel discussion, Women's History Month kick-off event

By Jose Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, hosted a Women's History Month panel discussion featuring a cross-section of leaders from throughout the command at the Academic Support Building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 3.

Capt. Amaya Vargas, Commander, Company B, 188th Medical Battalion, served as the event moderator. She was joined on stage by an all-female panel of MEDCoE officers and non-commissioned officers, including Maj. Elizabeth Sebero, Capt. Cotrena Brown-Johnson, 2nd Lt. Cathryn Guzzwell, Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Carson, 1st Sgt. Annie Thornton, and Drill Sgt. Sahara McCrary. The panel was an opportunity to highlight mutual experiences and lessons learned from fellow women in the military at the start of Women's History Month.

Maj. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general, was among the many distinguished leaders attending the event. The audience included both female and male permanent party, staff and trainees.

The 2021 Women's History Month theme is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced." This theme honors the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others. MEDCoE is committed to ensuring



PHOTOS BY JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Capt. Cotrena Brown-Johnson (right) answers a question during the Women's History Month panel discussion.

diversity, equity and inclusion across the command and representing what is truly great about the Army and the Nation: the diverse talents of the people serving.

"Women have played vital roles in our Army since the Revolutionary War," Vargas said in her opening remarks. "Today women serve in every career field in the Army, and are critical members of the Army team according to recent Army statistics."

Approximately 18 percent of the total Army force is female, and all positions in the Army are open to women. Thirty-eight percent of the Department of the Army civilian workforce are women. The Army has accessed or transferred more than 1,400 female Soldiers

into Infantry, Armor, and Fire Support occupations. Thirty-eight women have graduated from Ranger School.

Panel members shared experiences from their own military service and answered questions from the audience ranging from leadership, military spouses, assignments, motherhood and children, to the new Army Combat Fitness Test.

The leaders discussed differences in roles of women serving in the Army today when compared to the past. While each woman talked about their unique individual experiences, they reflected on the many accomplishments female Soldiers have achieved.

Many related how they were able to draw inspiration from the success of female leaders such as retired Lt. Gen. Nadja West, the 44th Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and former commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, and looked forward to seeing many more female role models advance in rank and position in the near future.

MEDCoE plans to host other events in support of Women's History Month to include an Army Combat Fitness Test workshop March 8, which is open to all MEDCoE personnel though it will focus on techniques for females to tackle the test, and the formal MEDCoE Women's History Observance Ceremony on March 18. For details on MEDCoE events, follow www.facebook.com/medicalcoe. For more information on Women's History Month, visit <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/about/>.



Maj. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster (left), U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence commanding general, presents a commander's coin to Capt. Amaya Vargas, commander, Company B, 188th Medical Battalion for organizing and moderating the Women's History Month panel discussion at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 3.

ARNORTH to oversee military vaccination support to FEMA in Georgia, Ohio

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

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 440 Department of Defense military medical and support personnel will deploy to Georgia and Ohio to support two state-run, federally supported Community Vaccination Centers.

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

"To be part of this whole-of-government response - to enable state-led, federally supported community vaccination centers in Georgia, Ohio and elsewhere, to give more people access to vaccines, and to go

on the offensive against this pandemic - is a source of incredible pride amongst our joint force," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander.

In Georgia, a 222-person, Type 1 Team from the U.S. Army, arriving March 12, will support the CVC at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

In Ohio, a 222-person, Type 1 Team from the U.S. Army, arriving March 12, will support the CVC at the Cleveland State University Wolstein Center in Cleveland.

According to FEMA, a Type 1 Team is capable of administering up to 6,000 vaccinations a day. These military medical and support personnel join approximately 2,260 others already supporting the federal vaccination effort in California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



SPC. ALVIN CONLEY

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Abigail Santora (right), a medical surgical nurse at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas, and 2nd Lt. Sharice Jones (center), a medical surgical nurse at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, work alongside a Federal Emergency Management Agency volunteer medical staff to prepare COVID-19 vaccines at the Fair Park COVID-19 Community Vaccination Centers in Dallas March 2.

At age 50, chief warrant officer wins Best Warrior for 4th ESC

By Maj. William Wratee
4TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Downer signed up to participate in the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) 2021 Best Warrior Competition because he wanted to challenge himself.

He did not have the opportunity to participate in a Best Warrior competition as an enlisted Soldier, so the 2021 contest would be his first and last opportunity. Downer trained for two months. His goals were to finish and to be competitive.

By the end of the grueling five-day competition at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, Downer had won the Best Warrior Officer Category. When he stepped forward to receive his award from Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 4th ESC commanding general, he recalled the moment as "surreal."

The Best Warrior completion generally has two categories; Best Junior Enlisted and Best

Noncommissioned Officer. For the 2021 competition, the 4th ESC added the "Best Officer Category." Only company-grade officers are allowed to compete.

"We created the officer category so company-grade officers could see and understand what their Soldiers were going through and how hard the competition is," said 4th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Lopes.

A promotion next year to Chief Warrant Officer 3 will make Downer ineligible for future competitions.

When asked how he felt about the last day, Downer said, "this is exactly what I wanted - a challenge."

Downer joined the Army in 1990. He made it to the rank of sergeant first class before he received his appointment as a warrant officer. His 20 years of experience helped him navigate the mental stress of moving from one physically taxing event to another. It also enabled him to mentor the younger competitors during downtime.

Downer said that "as the



MAJ. WILLIAM WRATEE

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Downer takes a breather before competing in the final round of the Pugile Stick fight on day three of the competition.

time went on, the other Soldiers started to ask me questions about their careers, and I was happy to help."

His career advice was simple but required work.

"You have to get to know yourself," he said. He went on

to say that "when you learn and accept who you are, you put yourself in a better position to set goals and then work toward achieving those goals." This mindset that helped Downer get ready for the 2021 Best Warrior and it

helped him win.

During the five-day competition, Soldiers fired at the JBSA-Camp Bullis weapons range, navigated an obstacle course, conducted day and night land navigation, completed written tests, performed drills and ceremonies, marched 12-miles with a 40 pounds rucksack, and administered the Army Physical Fitness Test and the Army Combat Physical Fitness Test.

At the weapons range, competitors shot six different weapons (the M-4, the SIG Sauer M17, the M240 Bravo machine gun, and the M249 light machine gun, the M320 Launcher, and the AT4). The final task was an appearance before the Best Warrior Board, staffed by 4th ESC Brigade Command Sergeants Major.

Best Warrior Competition test capabilities and combat readiness. The winners of the Soldier and NCO of the Year category compete in the 377th Theater Sustainment Command Best Warrior Competition this summer.

LACKLAND

433rd Airlift Wing participates in exercise

By Tech. Sgt.
Samantha Mathison

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Approximately 50 Reserve Citizen Airmen participated in the 433rd Airlift Wing's first chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 6 since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

This was the first in a series of exercises that wing leadership plans to implement in the coming year.

Col. Terry McClain, 433rd AW commander, said that the plan is to have quarterly wing-wide training days to familiarize Airmen with aspects of CBRNE scenarios.

"It's good to knock the dust off and perform some training in a contested environment," McClain said. "This is our first step since COVID-19 restrictions were put in place, in implementing the wing's ability to survive and operate (ATSO) training plan."

The exercise consisted of two parts; post-attack reconnaissance sweeps and cargo transport. The Airmen received real-world training and practice in wearing different levels of mission-oriented protective posture gear while performing sweeps and transporting cargo.

The exercise coordinator, Maj. Robert Orallo III, 74th Aerial Port Squadron air freight officer in charge, said that these two parts were further broken down into five events, with the intent that they would seamlessly merge together to give Airmen an interactive and memorable experience.

"We wanted to create an environment where any



TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

Senior Airman Cheyenne Hill, 68th Airlift Squadron resource management specialist, speaks into a radio during a simulated post-attack reconnaissance sweep March 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Airman, regardless of their job, can show up and perform the designated tasks," Orallo said.

The five events consisted of covering and uncovering a piece of cargo with a tarp, driving a route in MOPP gear, setting up and running a unit control center, and performing two different types of PAR sweeps. One sweep was to find any unexploded ordnance and the second was to locate any potential casualties.

"The purpose was to prepare them for real-world scenarios, whether domestic

"I think we can never have enough training. Stuff happens, especially when you deploy, and we'd rather be ready."

Tech. Sgt. Reynaldo Lania, 74th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation craftsman

or while deployed," Orallo said. "Overall, I think it went well. I think they had fun, learned a lot, and it's really good for Airmen from different squadrons and backgrounds to come together and accomplish a goal."

The Airmen who participated were from the 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron, the 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, the 433rd Security Forces Squadron, the 74th Aerial Port Squadron, and the 68th Airlift Squadron.

One of the team leads in the exercise, Tech. Sgt. Reynaldo Lania, 74th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation craftsman, said that he was selected as a team lead the day prior, so it was a challenge to get himself spun up on the job requirements.

However, he said it was good practice and that he was able to rely on his training and experience to teach others what to do.

"I think we can never have enough training," Lania said. "Stuff happens, especially when you deploy, and we'd rather be ready."



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 433rd Airlift Wing cover cargo March 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



VINCENT CHIDRESS

U.S. Air Force Gen. Mark Kelly, commander of Air Combat Command, second from right, and Command Chief Master Sgt. David Wade, Air Combat Command, right, participate in a tabletop exercise with Information Warfare Airmen during a visit to the Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) Headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 3.

616th OC demonstrates cyber capabilities to ACC leaders

By Sharon Singleton

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE
(AIR FORCES CYBER) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Gen. Mark Kelly, commander of Air Combat Command and Command Chief Master Sgt. David Wade, ACC, visited the cyber and intelligence Airmen of the Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 2-4.

The 616th Operations Center Airmen demonstrated their role in monitoring and maintaining the Air Force Information Network, or AFIN, to the visiting leaders during a 616th OC cyber tabletop exercise demonstration and a series of

cyber and intelligence briefings.

"There is no doubt that malicious cyber actors are looking for places to drop malware, use malicious code or make deliberate efforts to gain information through various networks," said Capt. Joshua Miller, chief of AFIN plans. "Air Force networks are not exempt from these malicious efforts."

The 616th OC is comprised of career fields ranging from cyber operators to intelligence officers who protect and maintain the AFIN from malicious actors.

During his briefing, Miller described the 616th OC as overseeing two functions: cyber and Intelligence and

Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, or ISR. The cyber function splits into three capabilities: offensive cyber operations, defensive cyber operations and network operations.

"Just as there are Air Operations Centers focused on air operations, we are the operations centers that focus on cyber operations," Miller said.

The tabletop exercise focused on the defensive cyber capability, which consists of reactive cyber actions, and the network capability, consisting of network maintenance.

Exercise participants witnessed first-hand how a tasking order starts with U.S.

Cyber Command and then flows to the OC for command and control. This C2 gives AFCYBER the ability to issue cyber tasking orders.

Miller explained the processes used by AFCYBER to remediate cyber vulnerabilities and detect indications of compromise across the AFIN. The processes include exercising operational C2 over AFCYBER forces, directing patching and remediation efforts of Air Force Major Commands, collecting mission results returned to OC, assessing the data and reporting any indicators of compromise to higher headquarters.

Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, stressed the importance of leadership receiving a bird's-eye view of how Information Warfare Airmen deliver outcomes for the nation.

Kelly concluded his visit to the 616th OC with several coin presentations for outstanding performers and by commending Airmen who bravely continued missions during the recent winter storm crisis.

He finalized his tour with a visit to the 37th Training Wing where he attended the Basic Military Training parade and graduation.

Air Force Special Warfare showcases human performance technology to Space Force leaders

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Huggins
SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING WING

Members of the Special Warfare Training Wing hosted Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond, U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations, and Chief Master Sgt. Roger A. Towberman, Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, and showcased how human performance technology and techniques have reshaped the way Special Warfare Airmen are trained and evaluated at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 3.

The purpose of this visit was to analyze the successes and lessons learned from the special warfare human performance program in order to optimize training for the Guardians of the Space Force.

“To mitigate injuries, instill empowering habit patterns and optimize the performance of Air Force Special Warfare candidates, we leverage the expertise of human performance specialists, operational medicine experts and technological advances,” said Col. George Buse, commander, Special Warfare Human Performance Support Group, or SWHPSG. “The holistic, multidisciplinary approach that we use for Special Warfare Airmen can likewise be tailored to address the needs of the Space Force.”

The SWHPSG added numerous experts, such as performance dietitians, strength and conditioning coaches, physical therapists, operational psychologists and other medical staff, as well as technology, to include float tanks, wearable sensors and real-time data tracking tools to create more agile training that increases the success rate for candidates during their career field’s training pipeline and mitigates injuries many

Special Warfare Airmen face later in their careers.

“The Space Force is postured to develop their own specific human performance approach to the welfare and performance of Guardians,” Buse said. “By addressing issues preemptively and instilling empowering habits, human performance teams can bolster Guardians’ physical, mental, social and spiritual facets. In turn, this promotes readiness, retention and the advancement of the United States’ space power capabilities.”

Another key piece discussed during the visit was the ability to repurpose existing infrastructure to accommodate human performance technology. Repurposing infrastructure allowed members of SWTW to incorporate human performance technology and practices at a faster rate with less cost.

“We are building our Space Force from the ground up, and benchmarks and best practices are everywhere,” Towberman said. “Our most important weapon system deserves our most deliberate investment. Nothing is too bold, too innovative, or too unconventional if it maximizes our Guardians’ potential.”

The newness of the Space Force allows it more leeway in building its’ training program and structure to best suit the needs of its members.

“Space Force Guardians have been called to protect American interests in the space domain — to ensure our nation, the Joint force, our allies and billions of people around the world never experience a day without space capabilities,” Raymond said. “It is a 24/7, global mission. And just as we are



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond, U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations, utilizes technology that offers insight into non-traditional options for metabolic health assessment for Guardians March 3.

leveraging innovation to build and integrate this new service, we are exploring new ways to

optimize training and workplace environments to enhance the capacity of our

people so they can be at their best to deliver advantage for our nation.”

‘Fight Through’ appropriate theme for 2020 37th TRW annual awards

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 37th Training Wing annual awards for 2020 took place March 5 after Winter Storm Uri forced a two-week delay of the ceremony. The ceremony — part virtual and part in-person — had the appropriate theme of “Fight Through.”

Col. Megan Schafer, 37th TRW vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gregory F. Butcher, Jr., interim 37th TRW command chief, presented the awards to the winners in 12 categories. The guest speaker was Chief Master Sgt. Stefan Blazier, previous 37th TRW command chief and now chief of Enlisted Force Development for the Air Force at the Pentagon.

Blazier said 2020 was “the year of the Warhawk,” and that the 37th TRW made it look easy despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19.

That experience “is something I take with me every day forward,” Blazier said.

Earlier in the week, the nominees attended one of three professional development seminars: Junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers; Senior NCOs, first sergeants, and company and field grade officers; and civilians.

Congratulations to the winners:

- ▶ Junior Enlisted: Senior Airman Kaitlyn L. Kennedy, 320th Training Squadron
- ▶ Noncommissioned Officer: Tech. Sgt. Jonathan L. Avila, Inter-American Air Forces Academy



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

Some of the 37th Training Wing's 2020 annual award winners stand with wing leadership at the ceremony held at the IAAFA auditorium, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, March 5. Col. Megan Schafer, 37th TRW vice commander, is at far left. Second from right is Chief Master Sgt. Stefan Blazier, former 37th TRW command chief and now chief of Enlisted Force Development at the Pentagon. At far right is Chief Master Sgt. Gregory F. Butcher Jr., interim 37th TRW command chief.

- ▶ Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Lionel G. Garcia, 737th Training Support Squadron
- ▶ First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. Joseph M. Clifford, 321st TRS
- ▶ Company Grade Officer: Capt. Tho K. Dang, 737th Training Support Squadron
- ▶ Field Grade Officer: Maj. Gloria Sanchez, 637th Training Group
- ▶ Civilian Non-Supervisory, Category I: Jodie N. Wall, 322nd TRS

- ▶ Civilian Non-Supervisory, Category II: Sonija E. Hauger, 345th TRS
- ▶ Civilian Non-Supervisory, Category III: Dale A. Blake, 345th TRS
- ▶ Civilian Supervisory, Category I: Robert Haines, 344th TRS, Det. 1
- ▶ Civilian Supervisory, Category II: Arthur Hosley, 332nd TRS
- ▶ Civilian Supervisory, Category III: David A. Cranek, 737th TRSS

Working groups to present solutions at I-WEPTAC

By Joe Bela

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of four cross-functional teams tasked with tackling today's combat support challenges will present their solutions during the 2021 Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conference April 19-21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Hosted by the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, the conference is the Air Force's premier innovation forum for members of the installation and mission support community. It draws experts from the various Air Force and Space Force support core functions who address mission shortfalls and propose solutions.

“I-WEPTAC has proven to be a great platform for innovation and critical thought. The solutions these Airmen provide come from their own experiences in garrison and downrange, so they're addressing real-time challenges and future needs,” said AFIMSC Commander Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox. “We've fielded or are in the course of putting into operation more than 20 recommendations from previous conferences that will make our air and space forces more lethal and ready to execute their missions. I'm looking forward to what this year's teams bring to the fight.”

To address COVID-19 concerns, attendance will be limited. Invitees will be notified and asked to register. Conference events will feature a combination of in-person and virtual gatherings.

With the exception of 2020 when it was canceled due to the pandemic, AFIMSC has held I-WEPTAC annually since 2017 to leverage the expertise of Airmen who form teams called Mission Area Working Groups. MAWG team members study, develop and recommend courses of action for specific mission topics. This year, the teams will present their recommendations at the I-WEPTAC out-brief on April 21.

This year's topics are:

MAWG 1: Right Size the Foundation: Optimize Installation & Mission Support for the Air Force We Need

MAWG 2: Strategic Mission Dependency Index for Targeted National Defense Strategy Investment

MAWG 3: Supply Chain Vulnerabilities in the Future “Way We Fight”

MAWG 4: Institutionalize Readiness as a Foundational Competency to Develop Mission-Ready Airmen

“These Airmen, with their insights and perspectives earned from years of personal and professional service, are developing innovative concepts that posture the agile combat support required to deliver



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Air and Space Force capability in the future,” said Col. Lance Clark, director of expeditionary support and innovation at AFIMSC.

RANDOLPH



PHOTOS BY SEAN M. WORRELL

The Medal of Honor plaque for Master Sgt. John Chapman was unveiled during a ceremony at Airmen's Heritage Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 4.



U.S. Air Force Col. Mason Dula, Special Warfare Training Wing commander, speaks during the Master Sgt. John Chapman Medal of Honor plaque unveiling ceremony at Airmen's Heritage Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 4.

Officials unveil Chapman plaque at JBSA-Randolph's Airmen's Heritage Park

By Dreshawn Murray

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The late Master Sgt. John Chapman was honored during a plaque unveiling ceremony, hosted by members of the Special Warfare Training Wing at Airmen's Heritage Park Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 4, 2021.

Chapman was a combat controller who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Aug. 22, 2018, for his actions in the Battle of Takur Ghar during the War in Afghanistan. He is the first Airman to receive the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

"John was ready to fight for his nation and he made the ultimate sacrifice for his teammates," Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, said. "This

ceremony and commemorative plaque honor his actions and preserve his story, which we all should know. He was a true hero and an inspiration, and his selfless acts rightly earned John our nation's highest military distinction."

Chapman along with members of the Navy SEALs came under enemy fire, in Afghanistan March 4, 2002. Once out of harm's way, Chapman provided directions to another helicopter to pick up the team. He and the team then rescued a team member who was thrown from the aircraft and located behind enemy lines.

While on the ground, the team came under fire from multiple directions. Chapman exchanged fire from minimum cover and covered his teammates before he succumbed to multiple wounds.

"That deployment and the Battle of

Takur Ghar taught a generation of special operators the kind of fight that they were in and it transformed a relatively inexperienced special operations force into something else," said Col. Mason Dula, commander of the Special Warfare Training Wing. "Master Sgt. Chapman's loss was the harbinger to all too frequent reports of casualties and fallen comrades and ceremonies at Arlington that robbed the force of rest even when in garrison because someone you knew and loved was always downrange."

Chapman is now memorialized at the Airmen's Heritage Park with other Air Force Medal of Honor recipients from past wars.

"We can never tell too many stories about Chapman," Dula said. "We teach Airmen about him. He wasn't a legend

or a case study in service before self. He was a teammate and we loved him."

Chapman was honored one year ago by JBSA officials when the former JBSA-Lackland Training Annex was renamed JBSA-Chapman Training Annex. The annex is the location where Chapman began his training for his Air Force career in 1989.

Airmen's Heritage Park is a nine-acre park that is dedicated to all Airmen who have served and are currently serving in the Air Force. It contains a pavilion, public restrooms, a half-mile walking path and the Medal of Honor memorial which displays Army Air Corps and Air Force Medal of Honor recipients who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and now Chapman from the War in Afghanistan.

AETC taking deliberate action focused on diversity, inclusion for recruits, Airmen

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Diversity and winning the next great power competition go hand-in-hand. Recognizing the value of having and developing agile thinkers at all levels of the Air Force who have diverse backgrounds and experiences, Air Education and Training Command leaders have taken deliberate actions focused on diversity and inclusion for both recruits and current Airmen and Guardians.

"We still have work to do to remove barriers that prevent every Airman from reaching his or her full potential, especially Airmen from racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in our Air Force or senior leader levels, but we are making progress in many ways," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command. "We are also working on a number of initiatives that remove barriers that enable us to cultivate a high-performing and innovative Air Force reflective of the best of our nation."

With a goal to recruit and access the best of all Americans eligible to serve, members of the Air Force Recruiting Service, along with Headquarters Reserve Officer Training Corps and Junior ROTC based at Air University, have implemented programs centered on mentoring, educating, and giving underrepresented population groups opportunities to fly in the Air Force. AETC is also creating new partnerships with underrepresented groups in recruiting, selection, and accession programs for both rated and non-rated career fields.

AFRS' Detachment 1 was activated in October 2018 and develops innovative programs in support of the service's Total Force (active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve) recruiting efforts. Members of the detachment focus on pre-accession audiences (youths, young adults and their influencers) and work with partners to provide pathways to accession sources like the U.S. Air Force Academy, ROTC and Officer Training School.

"Our AFRS Det. 1 is all about creating that excitement and understanding of

what we do," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, AFRS commander. "It's a very attractive lifestyle. But, if we don't tell people about it, if we don't show them, if we don't let them taste it, then we potentially lose very high quality, often diverse, recruits."

In the detachment's two years of existence, the unit has participated in 165 events with over 355,000 attendees, directly mentoring more than 39,000 youth. They have also worked with more affinity organizations such as Latino Pilot Association, Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, Women in Aviation International, and Ninety-Nines, as well as youth organizations, such as Civil Air Patrol and Junior ROTC.

The "GO Inspire" program began Jan. 1 and rallies general officers to hit the streets with teams of top Airmen and Guardians to inform, influence and inspire youth and youth influencers from underrepresented groups for military service in the Air and Space Forces.

"Our intent is for every youth to have an opportunity to connect with someone they can identify with. That may be based on race or gender. It could also be where they grew up or simply finding someone who's accomplished their dream," Thomas said.

The Air Force is also now using a competitive board process to select qualified newly-commissioned officers for placement into strategically located diverse metropolitan statistical areas based on DOD joint advertising market research and studies recruiting data. Forty "Gold Bar Diversity Recruiters" were placed at ROTC detachments at or near minority-serving institutions to serve as role models and increase awareness of opportunities in the service, arming high school and college students, parents, educators and influencers with information about AFROTC scholarships and opportunities for both technical (STEM-related) and non-technical degrees.

"Since July 2020, greater emphasis has been placed on recruiting at and around Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions," said Brig. Gen. Leslie Maher, commander of Air University's Holm Center. "The Gold Bars' ability to relate to and quickly establish rapport by

sharing their own recent experiences with potential applicants is the bedrock for diversity and inclusion among tomorrow's Air and Space Force leaders."

Additionally, a total of 27 "first-year lieutenants" and recent graduates of the USAFA are now based in AFRS recruiting squadrons across the nation.

"At the end of the day, recruiting must be about getting the best athletes on the team," Thomas said. "Fighting and winning wars is our job and we need to be the best warfighters in order to do that. But not all parts of the nation can see themselves wearing our jerseys, and they're not showing up for tryouts. Recruiting for diversity is really about attracting the very best to join our team."

Air Force Junior ROTC is the most diverse program in the entire service. Per the Holm Center at Air University, historically over 100,000 high school students wear the Air Force uniform to school every week, with 57 percent of those students being minority and 43 percent female. Additionally, about half of AFJROTC's 875 programs are in socio-economic challenged areas such as inner-city or rural.

In 2021, as part of the new J-100 Character-in-Leadership Scholarship initiative, HQ AFJROTC will board select 100 AFJROTC high school seniors for the opportunity to pursue a commission in the Air or Space Forces through AFROTC while earning their college degree.

"The future poses continued diversity challenges that the U.S. Air Force faces, and the J-100 helps meet those challenges by providing Air Force ROTC with highly competitive cadets based on their JROTC experience where they were mentored and challenged by retired officers and noncommissioned officers for two to four years," Maher said. "In an effort to maintain the service's competitive edge, this scholarship will deliver hand-picked young men and women already educated in citizenship, leadership, character, responsibility and service to our nation."

Inside AFRS Det. 1, aviation inspiration mentors work to seek out every demographic group in America in order to show them military members in flight suits who look like them.

"The AIM team is one of the greatest

assets of Det. 1," said Lt. Col. Annie Driscoll, AFRS Det. 1 commander. "It's an amazing group of motivated individuals that care about giving back to the community and love to share their Air Force journey with others. While the mentorship is invaluable to the youth who receive it, the true reward is with that of the mentor. To help someone succeed to fulfill their dream is worth every minute spent doing it."

As part of its outreach, AFRS Det. 1 began the Pathway to Wings series, a virtual, interactive career brief meant to inform the future generations of aviators on how to take those first steps to earning their wings. These events include information on USAFA, ROTC, and OTS, and all Total Force rated career options (active duty, Guard, and Reserve). AIM members participating in the webinars provide a diverse panel of rated mentors from every aircraft.

"In 2021, Det. 1 plans to grow the AIM team so there is a presence within every flying unit," Driscoll said. "We've flexed to virtual training and host virtual mentoring sessions monthly within our Pathway to Wings webinar series."

This summer, AFRS Det. 1 is hosting the first three Aim High Flight Academies for 72 youths in Milton, Florida, of which 43 percent are females and 68 percent are minorities. Each camp is three weeks long and focuses on leadership and mentorship, and also provides flight training up thru solo flight.

"During the summer months, we pair youth up with a mentor and get them up soloing in a Cessna 150 to let them slip the surly bonds, and feel what it's like to be able to push in the throttle and pull back on the stick and leave the ground, and to be able to learn basic flight maneuvers," Thomas said. "The Aim High Flight Academy targets what we call early access to let our American youth experience what it's like to fly and be an aviator, to get the bug to be a pilot early."

The AFJROTC Flight Academy Scholarship Program was created to address a shortage of pilots in commercial and military industries. This year, more than 1,340 cadets applied for the Flight Academy, of which 314 were

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JBSA installations remain no-drone zones

By Sam Figueroa Jr.

502ND SECURITY FORCES GROUP FUTURE OPERATIONS MANAGER

Joint Base San Antonio is a no-drone zone at all times at all installations.

Launching, landing or operating unmanned or remote-controlled drones or model rockets is prohibited at all times. Many drone and unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, users may not know that they inadvertently pose a threat to military operations.

In accordance with Title 10 U.S.C. § 130i, the operation of drones, model aircraft, model rockets and other UAS on or over the installation is prohibited to include annexes and auxiliary fields.

This prohibition includes civic, commercial and privately owned drones. Operators who violate the airspace restrictions may be subject to enforcement action, including potential civil penalties and criminal charges.

For information about proper locations and rules for drone operation, visit the Federal Aviation Administration UAS website at https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started.

Strict airspace rules also apply off-installation. Unmanned aircraft systems cannot interfere with flight operations at JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and Seguin Auxiliary Field. Information on drone use is available at the JBSA website at <https://www.jbsa.mil/drones/>.

People can also download the free B4Ufly app at https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/where_can_i_fly/b4ufly/ for questions about the specifics of flying a UAS off-installation. This app shows a user's current location and informs them of notifications you need to make to local airfields.

To ensure we are all doing our part in keeping JBSA a drone-free zone, contact your local Security Forces if see a drone flying on any installation. Violating these policies could result in non-judicial punishment for military members or administrative or criminal action for civilians.

For UAS hobbyists, take the time to acquaint yourself with policies, laws and other directives. Also, share this information with your fellow military members, civilian coworkers, friends, and family. Help us get the word out to the installation population.

For more information, call 210-652-SUAS (7827).



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selected to receive the scholarship valued at over \$20,000 to pay training costs for a private pilot license, including coursework, room and board, travel expenses and flight training hours.

Moreover, AFJOTC's inherent diversity also equates to more diverse applicants and ultimately more diverse pilots. Approximately 51 percent percent of Flight Academy students come from underrepresented groups. Additionally, of the 270 students who attended in 2018 and 2019, 46 percent are currently in Air Force accessions programs.

To address the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's priority to increase diversity for the rated force, a \$2.4 million contract was awarded to Air Force ROTC for the 2020-21 academic year for the AFROTC "You Can Fly" program. Detachment commanders across the four regions selected a total of 700 cadets to receive \$3,500 scholarships to enroll in Federal Aviation Agency private pilot certificate ground school programs. The money can be used for classes, academic material, headset rentals and flight time. Open to all applicants, officials hope youth from under-represented groups will benefit from the monetary assistance to gain skills that help with successful applications.

As part of Air Force Chief of Staff

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.'s Action Order-A: Airmen, describing a people-first approach, Air Force officials are also in the process of revising the decades-old Air Force Officer Qualifying Test and the Test of Basic Aviation Skills (TBAS). The goal is to determine if there are barriers that affect under-represented youth when preparing for and taking the test that could negatively impact them during the pilot candidate selection process.

One such barrier for those interested in a flying career was a height requirement. A policy adjustment, initiated by the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group, in coordination with AETC, introduced anthropometric (height) screening for individual applicants for placement in aircraft.

"Studies have shown that women's perceptions about being fully qualified for a job to make them less likely to apply, even though there is a waiver option," said Lt. Col. Jessica Ruttenber, Air Force mobility planner and programmer and team leader on the Women's Initiative Team who led the height standards adjustment effort. "Modifying the height standard allows the Air Force to accommodate a larger and more diverse rated applicant pool within existing aircraft constraints."

At 19th Air Force, several initiatives have been undertaken to identify and

eliminate structural bias undergraduate flying training pipeline processes and syllabi in order to better foster an environment of dignity, respect, mentorship and inclusion through improved dialogue, training and professional development.

One such initiative that helps UPT students from underrepresented groups is the management of class and instructor assignments to increase mutual support, and provide role models and better mentorship opportunities during training.

"We recognize it is a challenge when some Airmen can't see themselves in positions of leadership," Webb said. "If you can't see yourself, or someone that looks like you in a leadership position, it's hard to strive for those positions, and that limits our diversity and effectiveness as leaders."

Professional development in the area of diversity and inclusion for officers in flying training is also being expanded with the development of two new Profession of Arms courses called PA 102 and 103.

"Creating lasting culture change in the Air Force means diversity and inclusion education can't be a 'one and done' issue," Webb said. "Students will gain experience leading diverse groups of Airmen as part of these classes early on in UPT, which will be followed with an advanced course to address deeper topics later in UPT."

Currently in review, on approval, both courses will be added to the UPT syllabus as required training for all students.

Actions to create formalized feedback from students to improve the culture in the flying training environment are also in different phases of implementation. Student pilots will soon have a digital feedback application that enables them to provide real-time, direct feedback about instructors and leaders, after flying events. Students are also able to give feedback on issues or concerns in the training environment.

Additionally, student advocate positions assigned to UPT wings' human performance teams have been created at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma., and JBSA-Randolph, with the goal of having a position at each UPT base. The advocates will offer independent support to students who feel they need assistance with adjusting to the flying culture, or who perceive an issue of being treated with dignity and respect.

Reviews of all current UPT syllabi are complete, and a courseware review is ongoing and expected to be complete by July 2021. Examples of content being targeted during the reviews include publications that could be outdated for today's societal norms, or that contain verbiage or images considered not conducive to an inclusive learning environment for a diverse racial and ethnic community.