

# JBSA LEGACY

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J O I N T B A S E S A N A N T O N I O

APRIL 9, 2021



SENIOR AIRMAN DUNCAN C. BEVAN / 1ST COMBAT CAMERA SQUADRON

*U.S. Air Force T-38 Talons assigned to the 560th Flying Training Squadron fly in formation near Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph during the 47th annual Freedom Flights on March 25. The Freedom Flyer Reunion is an annual celebration recognizing the incredible service of Air Force Prisoners of War during the Vietnam War, their honorable return, and their connection with the 12th Flying Training Wing during Operation Homecoming.*

## 560th FTS honors POWs at Freedom Flyer Reunion

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## Same Day Surgery: Short, impactful care

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## Virtual program helps diabetics manage their insulin

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# Defense Department officials give report on Women Peace and Security compliance

By Jim Garamone

DOD NEWS

The Women Peace and Security program fits right into the Defense Department's breadbasket because "it is a tool for smart power," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss, the Joint Staff's deputy director for counter threats and international cooperation.

Sonkiss was among the many luminaries discussing the ways the DOD is adopting the Women Peace and Security Act of 2017 in all it does. The virtual event was sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace March 29.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks put it in perspective in her remarks helping open the conference.

"Around the world, the advancement of women is linked to the advancement of good governance," she said. "And good governance often leads to a more stable and less turbulent world, which directly impacts our work at the Department of Defense. Our work on women peace and security is critical not just for U.S. national security, but equally importantly, for the safety, equality and opportunity of women and girls around the world."

Women are underrepresented in the security sector, and that gives a skewed picture of the needs, wants and fears of a society.

"By understanding the security needs of the entire population during conflict, the DOD enhances its operational effectiveness and mitigates disproportionate harm against vulnerable populations that can adversely affect long-term stability," Sonkiss said.

Part of the program is to model an inclusive military. Women must be in meaningful



STAFF SGT. SIDNEY SALE / U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

security jobs, Hicks said. "While we have made progress ... we know that there is much more work to be done in the years ahead, including within our own forces as we seek to model and employ the WPS principles we work with partner nations to uphold," she said. "That is why I recently stood up the Deputy's Workforce Council, which will bring high-level sustained leadership focus to topics that include diversity, equity and inclusion."

Security cooperation is key to the program. The 2017 law came from the United Nations Women Peace and Security resolution passed in 2000. All nations should abide by this resolution, and DOD reaches out to allies and partners to include the voices of women in their security debates.

"Professional military forces have legitimacy to their populations," Navy Adm. Craig Faller, the commander of U.S. Southern Command, told the

conference. "You can have the best combat power, the best gear, be the best marksmen or communicators and lose because you don't gain legitimacy with our populations."

To the admiral, professionalism equals profound respect for human rights, respect for the laws of armed conflict and respect for the rule of law. These are key to everything Southcom does and that means the inclusion of women and diversity, he said. "And again while we're not perfect, we've made progress and we continue to," he said. "So that professionalism conversation is carried on with each and every one of our counterparts."

U.S. Strategic Command is — among other missions — responsible for the American nuclear deterrent. The command is bringing education to the forefront to "operationalize" the women peace and security principles

in all operations, said Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, the deputy commander. The command is building a base of eminently qualified personnel across all mission sets. "We're hopeful this course will help us improve our critical thinking and enable a more diverse decision-making for our day-to-day engagements," he said.

The bottom line is that every qualified person is needed for the department's many missions. "I'm exceptionally proud of what the women and men of the department do every day to champion women peace and security principles all across the globe," Hicks said. "Ultimately, as we take care of our people and join forces with our allies and partners to promote women's empowerment and gender equality around the world, we ensure that the department can perform its number one job effectively: Defending our nation."

*Mauritanian Civil Affairs Team Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Hawa Abou Ly speaks with women waiting to check in at a local clinic to receive medication where Mauritanian & U.S. Civil Affairs host a Medical Civil Actions Program (MEDCAP), in Nouakchott, Mauritania on Feb. 25, 2020.*

JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

**Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller**  
502D AIR BASE WING COMMANDER

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

If you have a question or concern, email [jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q. This comment is in regards to saluting retired officers at the JBSA-Randolph main gate. When entering the gate recently, I was told**

**by the Security Forces gate guard that he was not required to salute retired officers.**

**That is the first time I have heard or been on the receiving end of a direct statement like this from a Security Forces member ever. I am an Air Force "brat" and did gate duty as a cadet, so is this true? The gate guard at the commissary gate had an entirely different answer/opinion.**

**A.** Thank you for your feedback and we have addressed this to ensure our military personnel know the correct rules and regulations.

As a matter of military tradition, military personnel in uniform are required to salute when they recognize a person entitled to a salute, to include

retired personnel, except when it is inappropriate or impractical. Civilian personnel are not required to salute anyone of any rank.

**Q. Does JBSA have a website (or other source) that provides Randolph's current HPCON and restrictions to retirees; i.e., no Rambler gym access and/or other amenities that retirees may use?**

**A.** Thank you for your question. Our <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/> website has important information on HPCON levels that we update with important information as it becomes available.

In the commander guidance memos section you will see the newest memo that states what services are available

during our current state HPCON B plus. Additionally the top right corner of the coronavirus webpage you will see "facilities and services statuses" section. You can click on the either JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph or JBSA-Lackland for the location you are seeking information on.

► Feedback Friday update from March 29, 2020 article:

"All three JBSA legal assistance offices are now seeing retirees for legal assistance, including estate planning services. You can schedule an appointment at JBSA-Randolph by calling 210-652-6781; you can reach JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3362; to schedule an appointment at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, visit <https://fortsamlegal.setmore.com/> or call 210-808-0169."

## JBSA proclaims April Month of Military Child

**By David DeKunder**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio leaders recognized April as the Month of the Military Child during a proclamation signing ceremony April 1.

Signing the proclamation were Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and JBSA commander; Rear Adm. Cynthia Kuehner, Naval Medical Forces Support Command commander; and Robert Naething, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy to the commanding general.

The Month of the Military Child recognizes the children of military families for their resiliency, sacrifice, courage and unconditional support of their parents who are serving in the U.S. and overseas.

Miller said the Month of the Military Child started in 1986, when it was established by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

"He thought it was very important that we have a time



SEAN WORRELL

*Robert Naething, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy to the commanding general, signs a proclamation honoring April as the Month of the Military Child on Joint Base San Antonio, while Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and JBSA commander (left), and Rear Adm. Cynthia Kuehner, Naval Medical Forces Support Command commander (right), look on.*

to recognize the sacrifices children also make as part of a military family," Miller said. She also recognized that military children move often, almost never staying in one place very long.

Currently, there are 1.2 million children of active-duty service members worldwide. On average, these military

children move six to nine times during their school years.

Nita Ford-Hightower, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, said there are 35,000-plus children throughout JBSA whose parents are military connected or are serving in the military. These children attend schools in 49 school districts within

and surrounding JBSA.

"Month of the Military Child is the time to applaud military children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome," Ford-Hightower said.

During her remarks, Kuehner said, as a former military child and parent who raised children in a dual

active-duty household, she recognizes the struggles and challenges military children face because of frequent moves and having to change schools.

"It can be very challenging for children and their families, so this month gives us an opportunity to spotlight and honor our military children, and recognize their sacrifices as well," she said.

The proclamation ceremony was just the first of several events scheduled at JBSA in April in recognition of Month of the Military Child.

On April 15, JBSA will observe Purple Up! Day to show support for military children. On that day, JBSA members will wear purple to thank military children for their bravery, strength and resiliency. The color purple represents all branches of military services.

Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph Field Independent School Districts, along with several other JBSA organizations, Youth Programs, **CHILD continues on 10**

# Celebrate military children in April, year round

By Lori Phipps

AIR FORCE SERVICES CENTER

Each year, communities worldwide look to April as an important month for children who have one or both parents or guardians serving in uniform.

Considered the military's youngest heroes, in many ways children serve too. That's why we honor them during the observance of the Month of the Military Child.

Established in 1986 by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the Department of Defense continues the Month of the Military Child initiative today. Sponsored by DOD Military Community and Family Policy, the month-long observance acknowledges the important role military children play in their communities and honors their strength, bravery and resilience.

The month is a nationally recognized celebration honoring military service members' children with an ever-increasing number of awareness campaigns to celebrate them worldwide. On both military installations and local military-connected communities, activities take place and everyone can participate.

The highly mobile military lifestyle impacts every member of the family with frequent relocations, and a life of uncertainty and change being the norm. Children sacrifice close relationships and endure deployments or separations along with their loved ones in uniform.

Recognition for our youngest heroes is deserved because being part of a military family is something they were born into.

"When we sign on the dotted line to serve our nation, we understand that it comes with great sacrifice and long hours," said Maj. Gen. Tom



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

Air Force caregivers pose with their Purple Up t-shirts to visibly show their support for military children.

**“Finding commonalities by making an effort to immerse and acknowledge our unique culture is what helps military children feel more like they are accepted and fit in.”**

**Col. Christopher Parrish, Air Force Services Center commander**

Wilcox, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, “but we need to also remember when we go on a temporary duty assignment, deploy or start the process to pack up to move to another installation, our kids are dealing with it too.”

Military children face countless difficult goodbyes, speaking in acronyms, transferring to far-off places, and learning to bloom where they are planted in new schools and communities. Military children didn't choose a life of service, but they live it commendably and come out of their experiences stronger,

more resilient and courageous.

As commander of a unit that plays a large role in supporting families at installations with youth and recreation programs, child development centers, school liaison offices and quality housing, Wilcox said the month is special to a large part of his team, but it's also a year-round endeavor to take care of military children and appreciate all that they bring to the military family.

“We see or hear every day about how strong and resilient our military kids are and we're proud of them and proud to support them with the many programs and services we deliver around the globe,”

the general said.

In conjunction with Month of the Military Child, Purple Up! is a specific day when people and communities show support for military children.

“Military children find their troupe wherever they may be. Finding commonalities by making an effort to immerse and acknowledge our unique culture is what helps military children feel more like they are accepted and fit in, Parrish, Air Force Services Center commander. “Nearly two million U.S.

military-connected children live at home and abroad, supporting their mom, dad or both. April is our chance to show our military kids we're watching their six and commend them for their service too.”

“Military children find their circle of friends wherever they may be. Understanding and acknowledging our unique culture helps military children feel more accepted and

comfortable,” Parrish said. “Nearly two million U.S. military-connected children live at home and abroad, supporting their mom, dad, or both. April is our chance to show them we've got their wing and know they are serving too.”

Purple has a special meaning in the military, representing anything that is joint in nature where all branches of the nation's military services work together for a common goal. States and community stakeholders pick a day to celebrate. Everyone can show their appreciation for military children by wearing purple, posting signs and showing commitment to and camaraderie with these young heroes.

Showing support for Purple Up! and Month of the Military Child activities is a visual encouragement for military-connected students and families. The connection allows them to understand others' efforts to recognize their unique lifestyle. Use #MOMC, #MilKids, #MilFam and #PurpleUp to share your activities and photos on social media.

Military communities sponsor most activities, so search for events at an installation's school liaison office, military and family readiness center, DOD Dependent School administration office, public affairs, or child and youth programs.

In her book “Military Brats: Legacies of Childhood Inside the Fortress,” Mary Edwards Wertsch wrote, “We are the children of warriors. And although it was initially a role not of our choosing, it is a role perpetuated by many of us with pride ... It is an attitude, a way of being.”

*Editor's Note: Phipps is director of the Department of the Air Force's School Liaison Program*

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## ARNORTH to oversee military vaccination support to FEMA at five new locations

By Col. Martin O'Donnell  
FEDERAL VACCINE RESPONSE

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 860 Department of Defense military medical and support personnel deployed to Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Virginia, and will deploy to Indiana and Missouri, to support 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 the states and the federal vaccination pilot.

“Currently, our service members, in support of FEMA and the whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccinate tens of thousands of Americans every day,” said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. “Once open, these five new sites will have the capability to administer up to 21,000 vaccinations daily, bringing our joint force close to 100,000 vaccinations a day.”

In Indiana, an approximate 140-person, Type 2 Team from the U.S. Air Force, arriving April 2, will support the CVC at the former Roosevelt High School in Gary.

In Massachusetts, an approximate 220-person, Type 1 Team from the U.S. Navy, who arrived March 26, will support the CVC at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

In Missouri, an approximate 140-person, Type 2 Team from



SPC. ANDREW WASH / FEDERAL VACCINE RESPONSE

*U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Lars Landsem, a Las Vegas native and medical technician with the 88th Healthcare Operations Squadron, stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, assigned to 1st Detachment, 64th Air Expeditionary Group, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a local community member at the March 23 grand opening of the state-run Ford Field Community Vaccination Center. The Ford Field CVC will vaccinate up to 6,000 people per day.*

the U.S. Navy, arriving April 2, will support the CVC at the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

In New Jersey, an approximate 220-person, Type 1 Team from the U.S. Air Force, who arrived March 26, will support the CVC at the New Jersey Institute of Technology Naimoli Family Athletic and

Recreational Facility in Newark.

In Virginia, an approximate 140-person, Type 2 Team from the U.S. Navy, who arrived March 26, will support the CVC at the former Macy's in Military Circle Mall in Norfolk.

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 up to 3,000 vaccinations a day.

These military medical and support personnel join approximately 3,000 others from the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force already supporting the federal

vaccination effort in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

To date, these military personnel have administered approximately 1.7 million vaccines.

# Program for sexual assault survivors available at Joint Base San Antonio

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio has been home to an intensive outpatient program for survivors of sexual assault since 2014, and now that program has been selected as a pilot site for an evaluation study of TRICARE's Sexual Trauma Intensive Outpatient Programs.

The JBSA program, based out of Brooke Army Medical Center, provides care for active-duty service members who have survived sexual trauma at any time during their life and who are experiencing related mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

During the pilot study, eligible participants will receive care from a select team of providers and can volunteer to have the outcomes relating to their experiences compared to those in similar programs in both military and civilian settings.

"The pilot is a way to demonstrate that BAMC has an effective program in place to successfully treat survivors of sexual abuse and sexual assault," said Dr. Gerry Grace, chief of the Sexual Trauma Intensive Outpatient Program, Department of Behavioral Health at BAMC. "We are excited to be part of this endeavor to further develop best practices which may be replicated in order to increase access to care for survivors nationwide."

The BAMC intensive outpatient program provides survivors with multiple services, including mental health care, support, and other benefits, and participants may also work with case managers to ensure access to community resources and support systems in the local area.

Service members interested in participating in the program can consult with their primary care manager or mental health care provider to determine eligibility and to request authorization and referral.

There is also an intake process and an assessment, which will help determine if the person is a good fit for the program, Grace said. If so, the patient will be presented with treatment options.

"Only patients who are ready for this

**TRICARE Sexual Trauma Treatment Program**

TRICARE is offering confidential, intensive treatment for active duty survivors of sexual trauma.

**Are you an active duty service member who has experienced sexual trauma?**

- If you're experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder or other mental health conditions related to sexual trauma, you may qualify for TRICARE's intensive outpatient program pilot, available in participating locations.
- Treatment is: Confidential, considered place of duty, and not required to be disclosed to a commander.
- Contact your Primary Care Manager or mental health care provider with questions, to determine your eligibility, and for an authorization and referral.

Treatment is available at Joint Base San Antonio

\* Service members may be admitted to this pilot program through July 31, 2021. Pilot ends on August 31, 2021.

For more information, visit: [www.TRICARE.mil/sexualtrauma](http://www.TRICARE.mil/sexualtrauma)

type of intensive treatment, and consent to a course of treatment related to the sexual assault, are accepted into the study and program," Grace said.

The outpatient program is six weeks long and includes daily group sessions and two individual sessions per week with a provider who specializes in helping patients with trauma.

During the group sessions the service member will learn about post-traumatic stress and learn coping strategies to help mitigate and alleviate the symptoms of

PTSD, Grace explained.

"The individual sessions are 90 minutes, and within that session, the patient will specifically focus on the sexual assault," he said. "They will be helped by the provider to emotionally process the traumatic event and begin to address the negative consequences that the event has caused in their life.

"During the group sessions, the privacy of the patient is paramount, and details of their sexual assault will not be discussed," the doctor said. "The patient

will be with other group members who are struggling with similar issues related to post-traumatic stress."

"Throughout the treatment process, it is typical that the trauma survivor finds new levels of freedom from the constraints of the traumatic memory and experience, reclaiming their lives and what is ultimately important to them, such as increased engagement with spouses, children, family and friends," Grace added.

"We know, from decades of research, that any male or female who has endured sexual assault has a very high predictability of developing debilitating psychological symptoms, primarily trauma-related symptoms, that lead to post-traumatic stress," Grace said. "This program is intended to provide the support and care our patients need to start the recovery and healing process."

While the program at BAMC is always available to active-duty survivors of sexual assault, the pilot is only taking place through Aug. 31. The last day for an active-duty member in San Antonio to be admitted to the program for the pilot is July 31.

"The pilot program may end in August, but all that means is that data collection for the purposes of the study will end," Grace said. "The program, with its emphasis on effectively treating all types of trauma, to include sexual assault, will continue at BAMC."

To participate in the pilot, service members must meet the qualifications, which include:

- ▶▶ Being on active duty;
- ▶▶ Having a diagnosis from a mental health provider, a TRICARE authorized provider, or at a military hospital or clinic, and the diagnosis must be associated with a disclosed sexual trauma;
- ▶▶ Having both a pre-authorization and a referral; and
- ▶▶ Living within the specialty care drive time of approximately 60 minutes from Brooke Army Medical Center.

For more information about the Sexual Assault Intensive Outpatient Program or the pilot study, contact the Psychological Health Intensive Outpatient Program patient care coordinator at 210-539-1066.

# Virtual program helps diabetic patients better manage their insulin

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Diabetes Remote Electronic Assisted Monitoring, or DREAM, program focuses on teaching patients how to measure and adjust their insulin independently based on their provider's instructions.

A team from the Military Health System Virtual Medical Center worked with the Diabetes Center of Excellence at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center to develop a program to help augment a patient's diabetes treatment plan, providing support to the patient between provider appointments. The program is available for patients and providers across the San Antonio Military Healthcare System.

"The main idea was that patients are often told to titrate (go up or down) on their basal insulin based on a pattern of fasting glucoses," explained Air Force Maj. Darrick Beckman, endocrinologist and Diabetes Center of Excellence medical director.

"However, it is not uncommon for patients to be overwhelmed at appointments," Beckman added. "Even with having written handouts on how to titrate their insulin, when they return in three months, there often have been no adjustments made to their insulin and their diabetes is not better controlled."

The DREAM program offers patients help from a registered nurse to review their blood sugars and to help them identify patterns related to lifestyle that may impact their blood glucose levels. Patients also learn how to titrate their basal insulin according to the



LORI NEWMAN

*Nichole Carreon, a registered nurse with the Diabetes Remote Electronic Assisted Monitoring program, talks with a patient March 18 about their weekly glucose readings at the Military Health System Virtual Medical Center at Brooke Army Medical Center. The DREAM program offers patients help from a registered nurse to review their blood sugars and to help them identify patterns related to lifestyle that may impact their blood glucose levels. Patients also learn how to titrate their basal insulin according to the appropriate protocol as ordered by their provider.*

appropriate protocol as ordered by their provider.

After a provider refers a patient to the DREAM program, a registered nurse will contact them by phone to make sure they are suitable for the program and willing to participate.

"From there we set up an orientation to walk them through the program plan, including diabetes education," said Nichole Carreon, one of the two DREAM registered nurses. "Each week we have remote encounters by telephone to go through their weekly glucose readings and help them with their basal insulin through a titration protocol. The goal is to get patients into their prescribed target range for four weeks or titrating independently on their own for six weeks before we consider graduation from the

program."

Beckman said they worked hard to develop the algorithm(s) and the overall referral process to ensure the appropriate information is transmitted from start to finish — from provider referral and monthly reports to graduation from the program.

"We beta tested products and reports with primary care managers to get feedback about what data they would desire and even how often they would want reports," Beckman said. "We had to ensure continuity of care for transitioning providers. Once the patient was referred, we wanted there to be clarity to the providers about how the patient was doing and the ability to notify of acute concerns from nursing, in as little time as possible."

Once the patient is appropriately educated and

feels comfortable to titrate on their own, they no longer need the program, Beckman explained. "This titration capability is something the patient can use life-long."

Since DREAM launched in February 2019, they have had more than 60 participants go through the program.

"It has taken, on average, about 5.1 months for participants to complete the program and we have seen an average A1C improvement of up to 2.5 points," said Kim Wasmuth, DREAM RN. "Most patients reach their target goals before the end of the program and/or are able to titrate their basal insulin on their own. For those who do not reach their target goal, they leave with the tools needed to adjust their insulin on their own so that achievement of their goal is much more likely than without

those tools."

Beckman said from a provider perspective the DREAM program works well.

"I can make quicker adjustments in insulin with little time spent on the overall process," he said. "And, acute issues can be identified, such as hypoglycemia, and I can intervene quicker."

"Patients tell me they enjoy having an accountability partner," Beckman added. "They say that they're more likely to remember to take their insulin doses because they know they need to report the numbers to the nurse."

Providers interested in learning more about the DREAM program can email the Virtual Medical Center Remote Patient Monitoring Clinic at [dha.san-antonio-tx.healthcare-ops.list.vmc-fo-rhm-nursing-suppor@mail.mil](mailto:dha.san-antonio-tx.healthcare-ops.list.vmc-fo-rhm-nursing-suppor@mail.mil).

# Program offers options for PCSing spouses with occupational licenses

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military spouses who are undergoing a permanent change of station, or PCS, and whose jobs require an occupational license, face several challenges and obstacles when trying to renew or transfer their license to the new state.

Through the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition program, spouses now have options that support continuity of work which and allow states to accept or expedite licenses or authorize temporary licenses.

The program is part of a U.S. Department of Labor initiative to reduce employment barriers and enhance career opportunities for military spouses, who can experience employment gaps and costly interruptions in their career trajectory, according to the Department of Labor website.

Yazmine Gutierrez, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center work/life consultant, said many states, including Texas, provide options for military spouses whose career fields require occupational licenses to work.

Gutierrez said those options include having the occupational license the military spouse obtained in their previous state transferred and recognized in the state they are PCSing to.

“This program allows spouses a transferability of skills and employment,” Gutierrez said. “It gives spouses the ability to maintain a portable career in their chosen career field, and

ultimately, continued gainful employment.”

Gutierrez said JBSA M&FRCs can provide assistance to servicemembers and spouses to put the required documentation together to obtain reimbursement for any fees incurred for state occupational licensing and recertification.

Spouses, depending on eligibility and branch of service, may be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 in occupational state licensing and recertification fees due to a PCS through the Licensure Reimbursement Program.

To receive reimbursement, military spouses must file within 24 months of the date of PCS and must provide other relevant documentation, including copies of receipts for licensing and recertification fees, a copy of the occupational license, and a copy of the PCS orders.

“The JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers can assist spouses and servicemembers by reviewing their claim package and supporting documents to make sure the package is complete prior to filing with Finance,” Gutierrez said. “We’re here to help during this whole process.”

In addition, information and resources about the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options program can be found at <https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses>. The website includes an interactive map where users can click on a state to view information on each state’s licensing procedures and requirements for specific career fields, including licensing boards.



SENIOR AIRMAN SUSAN ROBERTS

*The Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition program can provide assistance to servicemembers and spouses to put the required licensing documentation together to obtain reimbursement for any fees incurred for state occupational licensing and recertification.*

## For more information

To contact the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options program:

- ▶ JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 210-221-2705
- ▶ JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 210-671-3722
- ▶ JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 210-652-5321
- ▶ Or email at [usaf.jbsa.aetc.mbx.jbsa-employment-org-box@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.aetc.mbx.jbsa-employment-org-box@mail.mil)

## CHILD

From page 3

Family Child Care, Child Development Centers, Child and Youth Education Services and School-Age Programs, will also host events for military children and families in April.

Month of Military Child

events at JBSA include:

▶ The Purple Up! & Celebrate Kids Festival will be held 4 to 6:30 p.m., April 9, at JBSA-Lackland Youth Center, Building 8420. Festival events will include games and outdoor activities, and nutritious snacks will be served. For information, call JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs at 210-671-2388.

▶ A Purple Up Party! will be held 1 to 3 p.m., April 10, at Heritage Park on JBSA-Randolph. This is a drive thru event for parents and children. Activities will include music, games and giveaways. For information, call JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

▶ A Month of the Military

Child Kids Karnival will be held 3:30 to 9 p.m., April 10, at the W. Ed Parker Youth Center, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Building 1630. Activities will include yard games, an electronic game truck, talent show, crafts, face painting and temporary tattoos. The movie “Sandlot” will be shown after sundown. For information, call

the W. Ed Parker Youth Center at 210-221-3502.

▶ Additionally, a Month of the Military Child Wave Parade will take place 4:30-6:30 p.m., April 15, at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School.

All COVID-19 protocols will be followed at all events, including mask wearing and physical distancing.



# LACKLAND

## Same Day Surgery: Short but impactful care

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

“Our mission impacts the San Antonio Military Health System by lessening the burden on Brooke Army Medical Center’s surgical teams, as well as keeping our patients in-house for simple surgeries,” said Staff Sgt. Tandra Wilson, Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, or PACU, noncommissioned officer in charge.

The 59th Surgical Specialty Flight runs the Same Day Surgery clinic, which gives Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center beneficiaries the option to have low-threat surgeries done in-house rather than being seen at BAMC or being referred off-base.

Same Day Surgery has six distinct sections that work together to deliver the highest level of patient care to every person who walks through their doors. They are the admin section, pre-operative care, anesthesia, operating room, sterile processing and distribution, and PACU.

“No matter what the ebb and flow of the day is, we find a way to make things work,” said Staff Sgt. Lucero Cameron, 59th Surgical Operations Squadron medical administrator. “We do what’s best for the patient ... good old-fashioned teamwork.”

The admin section works directly with the clinics to schedule patients for all necessary appointments. They are also responsible for the pre-op phone call prior to the patient’s visit. On the day of the appointment, they check the patient in and ensure all the needed paperwork is completed and filed correctly.

The admin team is simply the first step in a patient’s care in Same Day Surgery. Their next stop is with the pre-op team who prepares the patient for surgery to include taking vitals, running any necessary labs and answering any questions the patient may have.

Once the operating room is ready, the patient is then seen by the OR and anesthesia teams and receives their treatment.

Once the patient leaves the OR, a team goes in to clean, sanitize and prep the



*Sonya Malacara, 59th Surgical Operations Squadron operating room nurse, assists Airman 1st Class Blessed Velasquez, 59th Medical Operations Group ophthalmology technician, don proper personal protective equipment at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center on March 26. Ophthalmology is one of the many specialities that utilizes Same Day Surgery’s capabilities.*

STAFF SGT. AMANDA STANFORD

room for the next patient.

All tools are taken to sterile processing and distribution where they are cleaned, inspected, sterilized and prepared for the next surgery.

The patient’s final stop is the PACU, where they are brought out of anesthesia and monitored until they are cleared for release. The PACU team then gives them any post-op instructions and delivers them to their vehicle to be taken home for recovery.

“One of my favorite experiences was a patient coming out of anesthesia was so grateful for the care he had received,” Wilson stated. “His gratitude made me proud to be able to help him in his recovery journey.”

Specialties ranging from orthopedics

to ophthalmology to general surgery utilize the services of Same Day Surgery.

“We support surgeries for patients who are in the healthy population that doesn’t need to be observed overnight,” Wilson explains. “Our core set of patients come from five clinics: Ear, Nose, and Throat; Ophthalmology; Orthopedic; Podiatry; and General Surgery with surgeries like cataracts removal, shock wave therapy and shoulder or knee surgery.”

On top of the patient load the clinic services, the gastroenterology clinic utilizes the PACU after their patient receives care. This adds an average of five patients a day to the 12 to 15 patients seen in the operating room, which has dropped from the 25 patient average

since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

The team in Same Day Surgery has a very short but impactful part to play in a patient’s health. They only interact with patients for a number of days from the pre-op phone call through their surgery to their post-op care and discharge. After discharge, the clinic will do a follow-up phone call. Once that is complete, the patient goes back to their respective clinic for follow-up care.

“While we don’t see patients for very long, we do everything we can to give them quick and easy surgeries with the best possible care,” Wilson said. “From their pre-op phone call to when we walk them to their car, their care is our number one priority.”

# Despite COVID-19, IAAFA continues its mission uninterrupted

By Vanessa R. Adame  
37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The number of international students at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy decreased by more than half when COVID-19 struck the nation just over one year ago. Despite the new operating environment, IAAFA leadership quickly adapted and vectored its members and missions to maintain uninterrupted support to partner nations and the 37th Training Wing.

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy, or IAAFA, provides military education and training to U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command, including 23 partner nations. The academy's professional approach to academics over the last 78 years makes it the benchmark in the Western Hemisphere. This approach now includes an extensive Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) curriculum designed shortly after the pandemic curtailed in-residence academic operations.

"COVID-19 has completely transformed the way we do business, and the processes we had in place to take care of our students and the academy," said Javier Peraffán, Director of International Student Support.

Altogether, 60 students are enrolled during Alpha cycle, which runs from January through April this year. These international students will attend seven in-person courses and one additional class through its virtual learning environment.

"We are working on implementing lessons learned to be able to maximize training while still maintaining safety



VANESSA R. ADAME /

*Master Sgt. Elvis Garcia, a guest instructor at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, guides an International Non-Commissioned Officer Course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on Feb. 22. During COVID-19, IAAFA maintained uninterrupted support to partner nations and the 37th Training Wing.*

protocols," Peraffán said. "The ultimate goal is to train as many students as possible, in the safest environment possible."

IAAFA will follow a thorough health plan based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Surgeon General and higher headquarters directives. These include a requirement for students to have a recent negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival. Following their arrival, all students undergo medical screening and go into a 14-day restriction of movement. During this period, IAAFA staff carry out temperature checks, questionnaires and other measures to monitor student and staff safety.

To accomplish its health plan, IAAFA leadership, staff and cadre work closely with the 59th Medical Wing, 502nd Air Base Wing and 37th Training Wing agencies. The military personnel flight, base lodging, dining facilities and others play critical roles in the care and well-being of IAAFA's student body. The execution of the health plan and collaboration with other agencies also provide useful lessons learned and best practices that will be beneficial as IAAFA gradually returns to its full in-residence capacity of about 250 students per cycle.

"It's not hurting our mission, it's helping to keep our faculty, staff and students protected," said Ralph Sanchez, Chief

Registrar.

IAAFA's Professional Military Education is also providing the groundwork for other military schoolhouses, as it has been the only PME instructional facility to continue with in-person instruction.

All three levels of PME courses are currently being offered at the academy, although on a smaller scale. The International Student Officer Course, International Airman Leadership Course and International Non-Commissioned Officer Course were successfully reinstated at the academy with zero COVID-19 cases during Charlie Cycle in October 2020. The academy graduated

28 students from partner nations and the U.S. during this time, among them two Space Force Guardians.

"We visited Basic Military Training and other training squadrons to help us capture their daily operations, procedures and health measures. Once we gathered the data we needed, we made modifications to fit our curriculum and campus accordingly," said Capt. Christopher Price, PME Flight commander.

Part of the modifications included rearranging desks six feet apart, checking temperatures twice a day, and occasionally conducting classes in the IAAFA Training Center auditorium to provide more spacing between students. Safety measures also included a 14-day restriction of movement for all new students immediately upon their arrival.

Although restrictions are still in place for incoming students one year later, IAAFA is paving the way for other military schoolhouses to follow. This year, Alpha-cycle courses at IAAFA started January 2021, with 18 officers and 16 enlisted members from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay, Colombia and the U.S.

Price said that the impact that the in-residence class has had on the wing, the Air Force and the Department of Defense was immeasurable.

"Besides setting the benchmark for the other USAF PME schoolhouses to emulate in their efforts to return to in-residence teaching, our building partnership mission has remained intact, and has allowed us to once again teach in residence this February 2021 class and teach other technical training courses as well," Price said.

# First-class aviator reflects on storied career

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Kathy La Sauce didn't blaze trails during her 20-year Air Force career. She scorched them.

She joined the Air Force in 1972 after receiving one of only two Officer Training School slots for the Long Island, New York, area.

"When I graduated from college, I wanted my life to matter so I looked at joining the Air Force. Fortunately, the Air Force had just increased the number of women that would be allowed to serve, and it opened up some of the nontraditional career fields," La Sauce explained.

Next stop: Chanhute Air Force Base, Illinois, where she became part of the first maintenance officer class to include women.

"I spent seven months learning about all the systems of an aircraft — engines, hydraulics, electronics, aerodynamics — and I loved it!" La Sauce said.

Supervising maintenance personnel and coordinating the recovery, repair and launch of C-141s, C-5s and WC-130 typhoon chasers was a great life. And she may well have gone on to complete her career in aircraft maintenance was it not for the Air Force announcing a groundbreaking test program. So it was her next "first" that set the course for history — graduating in 1977 as a member of the first Undergraduate Pilot Training class that included women.

"When I learned that they were going to open up flying to women I was excited about the possibility of the opportunity to learn to fly. My technical knowledge and my reputation in maintenance were undoubtedly the reasons I was selected to be in the first class," she said.

La Sauce said she found pilot



COURTESY PHOTO

Capt. Kathy La Sauce is shown in her UPT Class 77-08 graduation photo.

training to be "extremely demanding yet thrilling." And while many Americans were celebrating the huge step in equal rights for women, not everyone was on board with the changes.

"Some of our flight commanders didn't want us there," she said. "And some of them even said, 'Well, if I had my way none of you would graduate.'"

Despite the negativity, La Sauce didn't let it stop her from achieving her goals. She thought of what it would mean if she didn't succeed.

"I realized that opportunities for women in the Air Force might have been limited. They

might not have opened up and removed the combat exclusion laws, so women wouldn't be flying fighter aircraft, women wouldn't be flying combat missions nor be test pilots or astronauts," she said.

"We were considered a test program — a test program because there were political and military leaders who did not want us to succeed. I knew that my success as a pilot and my career progression was extremely important to future generations of women who would follow after me," La Sauce added.

She trained on T-37 and T-38 aircraft during UPT and chose to fly the C-141 cargo aircraft

after graduating, giving her the ability to fly around the world.

While stationed at Norton Air Force Base, California, she achieved three more "firsts" — the first woman to be a C-141 aircraft commander, instructor pilot and flight examiner pilot. She was then selected as the first female pilot to fly in the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. She flew the VC-135 and upgraded to aircraft commander.

After a staff tour at the Pentagon, she returned to Andrews Air Force Base, where she became the first woman to command an aerial port squadron — one that supported the president of the United States.

La Sauce considers commanding the aerial port squadron her most memorable assignment.

"While I was there, there was President Mitterand and Gorbachev and Margaret Thatcher ... an exciting time. It was an assignment for me to make a bigger difference," she said.

She made some changes during her time at Andrews and while they may seem small, they showed that La Sauce paid attention to the needs not only of the distinguished visitors but her Airmen as well. One of the changes was adding items to the supply list specifically for women.

Even though there were many congresswomen who came through as passengers, there wasn't a single item on either the aircraft or in the DV lounge that could accommodate their needs. She also obtained funding to replace a 25-year-old pallet scale with a digital one.

"I could make a difference in cutting out a lot of the unnecessary regulations, and letting the young people give me their ideas on how they would like to do things better," La Sauce said. "My personality was just right for that

squadron."

She added that while some of the senior NCOs initially didn't want to work for a woman commander, it didn't take them long to acknowledge she was the best commander they had ever worked for.

"It was a storybook ending to a perfect career," she said.

La Sauce was interviewed by the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in October 2020, after the museum debuted an exhibit dedicated to the 10 women of UPT Class 77-08. They were also inducted into the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame in 2016.

"I'm extremely pleased and honored that our role in history is finally being told," La Sauce said. "America knows about the women who flew in World War II, and they know about the women fighter pilots, but I'm afraid history has sort of lost any of the stories of my class, my generation."

When viewing the museum exhibit, she hopes people realize that "equality for women took time."

"Only recently have I taken the time to look back and reflect on my life, career and accomplishments," La Sauce said. "I realized I was a part of aviation history. I had a fascinating and fulfilling career!"

*In addition to conversations with La Sauce, some information for this article was taken from an interview done by Annette Crawford for the Spring 2020 edition of "Daedalus Flyer," the official magazine of the Daedalians, [https://www.daedalians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-spring-flyer\\_web.pdf](https://www.daedalians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-spring-flyer_web.pdf). Information was also sourced from an interview with the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in October 2020, <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/2383446/women-in-the-air-force-displays-in-cold-war-gallery/>.*

# IAAFA celebrates 78 years of excellence

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy celebrated its 78th anniversary in a small ceremony with top leaders at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 15.

Distinguished guests, international students and IAAFA members joined leadership at the IAAFA Airfield Training Complex to commemorate the occasion.

Col. José Jiménez, Jr., IAAFA Commandant, spoke to the crowd of approximately 60 guests, recalling the academy's long history starting from its inception at Albrook Air Force Station, Panama, with only 11 students, to the current day where hundreds of Latin American and U.S. Air Force students train each year.

"Today our family carries on the tradition of integrity, excellence and selflessness in our daily battle rhythm," Jiménez said. "You deliver relevant, modern and innovative education and training to more than 800 Latin American and U.S. Air Force students each year. You do this with a 'pasión' and dedication unmatched anywhere in our service."

The youngest member at the academy — Airman Basic Marly Gómez from the Colombian Air Force — joined Jiménez in cutting the cake using the ceremonial saber, and in singing happy birthday to the academy.



VANESSA R. ADAME

Col. José Jiménez, Jr., Inter-American Air Forces Academy Commandant, and Airman Basic Marly Gómez of the Colombian Air Force prepare to cut the cake March 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Approximately 60 guests attended the 78th anniversary celebration at IAAFA's Airfield Training Complex.

Col. Rockie Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander, spoke of the partnerships fostered at IAAFA being necessary for the nation.

"Thank you all so very much for being here at IAAFA to help continue to build our collective international capacity in meeting the challenges of tomorrow," Wilson said.

IAAFA's history goes back to 1943 when it was established as the Central and South American Air School at the request of General Fernando Melgar, Peru's minister of Aeronautics. The school offered the first aeronautics training in Latin America. In the 1940s and '50s, enrollment increased to approximately 400 students per year.

The school went through two more name changes until it became the Inter-American Air Forces Academy in 1966. In 1989, the academy moved to Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, but was destroyed during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This forced a move to JBSA-Lackland, where the academy was in full operation just 100 days later.

Through all the changes, its mission to provide education and training has remained constant. Academy officials keep the curriculum relevant by adapting its courses according to partner nation needs.

Today, the academy offers more than 30 courses to international students across 23 partner nations in professional education, operations and support training; aircraft and systems training.

## DOD announces policy updates for transgender military service

BY DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On April 1, the Department of Defense published the policy updates for transgender military service. The policy updates restore the Department's original 2016 policies regarding transgender service.

The revised policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or an individual's identification as

transgender, provide a means by which to access into the military in one's self-identified gender provided all appropriate standards are met, provide a path for those in service for medical treatment, gender transition, and recognition in one's self-identified gender, and seeks to protect the privacy of all service members and to treat all service members with dignity and respect.

The policies will be effective on April 30, 2021, affording the military services the necessary time to update service-level policies and provide guidance to commanders, service members, medical professionals, and other communities of practice as appropriate.

During this period, the Department's interim guidance of January 29, 2021, remains in effect.



COURTESY IMAGE

The Department of Defense policy updates for transgender military service restore the original 2016 policies regarding transgender service.

# RANDOLPH

## 560th FTS honors Vietnam POWs at Freedom Flyer Reunion

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

The 560th Flying Training Squadron honored three former Vietnam veterans during the 47th Annual Freedom Flyer Reunion at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph March 25-26.

The annual reunion allows Air Force combat pilots who were shot down in the Vietnam War, many suffering long periods in captivity as prisoners of war, to take one last flight.

“An Air Force pilot’s final flight is always a big deal,” said Maj. Mark Jordy, the 560th FTS’ Freedom Flyer Reunion director. “It’s also a big deal to have these pilots, who have been out of the Air Force a long time, back in the air one more time. It’s an honor to be able to give them back some of the joy of flight.”

Held every year since 1973, with the exception of 2020, the Freedom Flyer Reunion at JBSA-Randolph honors repatriated Vietnam War pilots. The event also includes a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Symposium and a wreath-laying ceremony.

This year, two Vietnam POWs participated, as well as a family member, for the first time.

Richard Bates, a former F-4 Phantom II weapon systems officer; Gregg Hanson, a former F-4 Phantom II pilot; and Janine Sijan, flying for her brother, former Capt. Lance P. Sijan, all flew in the backseat of T-38 Talon training jets.

Sijan, an F-4 backseat pilot and the only U.S. Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor, sustained serious injuries after he was shot down over Laos, but was able to evade capture for more than six weeks.

Sijan was eventually captured, escaped, and re-captured multiple times and never gave up any sensitive information to his captors. He eventually died Jan. 22, 1968, in the Hoa Lò prison, infamously known as the “Hanoi Hilton.”



BRIAN J. VALENCIA

Former prisoners of war retired Capt. Gregg Hanson (left) and retired Maj. Richard Bates (right) are joined by Janine Sijan in a moment of silence to honor POW’s during the Freedom Flyer wreath laying ceremony at Joint Base Randolph on Mar 26. Janine is the sister of Capt. Lance Sijan, Medal of Honor recipient, who lost his life as a POW in Vietnam. This year was the 47th Freedom Flyer Reunion.

**“It’s ... a big deal to have these pilots, who have been out of the Air Force a long time, back in the air one more time. It’s an honor to be able to give them back some of the joy of flight.”**

Maj. Mark Jordy, the 560th FTS’ Freedom Flyer Reunion director

Jordy said Janine has done a lot to continue the legacy her brother started, sharing his story at bases around the world and using it to show Air Force members an example of resiliency.

The three flyers were Freedom Flyer

numbers 205, 206, and 207.

“These flights are extremely important to honor the sacrifice and legacy of our Vietnam POWs,” Jordy said. “They link the past to the present and ensure that we continue to hold

ourselves to the highest standard.”

During the two-day reunion, the flyers participated in aerospace physiology training, egress training, a freedom flight brief, a final flight, a wreath-laying ceremony and a POW symposium.

“We remember those who have sacrificed their dreams, peaceful lives, and freedom to serve America’s interest, and honor our nation’s commitments to a foreign country,” said Lt. Col. Benjamin Williams, 560th FTS commander. “These brave Americans sitting before us embody the courage, character, and commitment that shape who we are as Airmen.”

# Technical training now includes respect as part of curriculum

**By Capt. Lauren Woods**  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A cultural development course delivered to Airmen during their initial technical training is adding a new topic to their mandatory curriculum: respect.

Airmanship 200 is the second of three development courses that new Airmen receive to impart a common understanding of Air Force values through guided discussions. It bridges the gap between the Airmanship 100 course at Basic Military Training and Airmanship 300, which is offered at the First Term Airman Center.

An instruction block on respect was previously available as one of several optional supplements military training flights could include in their Airmanship 200 program. A memorandum released March 4 by Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos, 2nd Air Force commander, made the instruction block compulsory, adding it to another four required lesson blocks, covering Identity, Ownership, Self-Discipline and



KEMBERLY GROU

*Basic Trainees under the 37th Training Wing Detachment 5 participate in academic class-work at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, on April 17. Nearly 60 Airmen completed the six-week basic military training course. The Air Force sent new recruits to Keesler to demonstrate a proof of concept to generate the force at multiple locations during contingencies. The flight was the first to graduate BMT outside of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland since 1968.*

Decision-Making.

The decision to add the new mandatory curriculum on respect came about in

recognition of the importance of diversity in our Air Force.

“Respect was chosen to be included as a core lesson

because our Airmen need to have awareness of our diverse culture and the important role every Airman plays in

supporting our National Defense Strategy,” said Master Sgt. Kristen Jordan, 2nd Air Force military training leader functional manager.

Senior Airman Courtney Collins, 335th Training Readiness Squadron, recently completed Airmanship 200 and found the discussion on respect to be especially valuable to younger Airmen.

“Respect is the foundation for professional and personal relationships, no matter your rank,” Collins said.

The Airmanship series stemmed from a working group in 2019 that identified a need for reshaping and defining Airmanship in early development stages for Airmen. The intent is to ensure deliberate development in a stair-step approach at the appropriate times.

According to Jordan, development does not end at the completion of the three Airmanship courses.

“The ultimate goal is to develop Airmanship all the way through the 900-level so that even the highest enlisted Airmen are continually developing their skills as leaders and warriors,” she said.

## AETC Innovators invited to virtual iSummit April 29

BY AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In an effort to fuel collaboration among Air Education and Training Command innovators, AETC is hosting its next virtual innovation summit from 9-10:30 a.m. April 29.

The purpose of the iSummit is to improve collaboration by providing AETC Airmen, at all levels, a platform to share information on innovation activities.

“The goal is to fuel collaboration amongst AETC innovators, so they can share insights, learn from experience, build collaborative relationships, and replicate success,” said Col. Leonard Rose, AETC analysis and innovation director. “We hope all Airmen join us for this virtual event.”

The theme for the iSummit is “Driving Decisions through Data Analytics.”

“Data Analytics is AETC’s innovation force-multiplier. It allows our innovative

Airmen to leverage artificial intelligence, machine learning and data visualization to further transform the way we learn,” Rose said. “We look forward to a robust discussion about these cutting-edge technologies.”

According to Tech. Sgt. Michael Bridges, AETC/A9 innovation advancement division, data analytics is a powerful way to get a handle on the increasing complexity of the challenges Airmen face.

Airmen interested in attending the

virtual event can contact the Innovation Advancement Division team at [aetc.a9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil](mailto:aetc.a9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil).

“This event provides an incredible opportunity to showcase these innovations to senior leadership to help bring them to fruition and expand their reach,” Bridges said.

Anyone interested in the innovation activities happening across the command is encouraged to visit the AETC Innovation Dashboard at <https://community.apan.org/wg/aetc/>.

# DAWN-ED advanced degree program accepting applications for 2022 academic year

BY AIR EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Active duty officers in the Department of the Air Force interested in the *Developing the Airmen We Need-Education* advanced degree program have

until June 25, 2021, to apply for the 2022 academic year.

DAWN-ED is a DAF-funded degree program that provides up to 15 eligible Airmen and Guardians the opportunity to pursue a master's degree or Ph.D.

from a university of their choice.

Funded by the Air Force Education Requirements Board, the DAWN-ED program was established to help meet the Department's future technological needs as outlined in the 2018

National Defense Strategy.

DAF officers in the following developmental categories are eligible to apply: Air Operations and Special Warfare: Space Operations; Nuclear and Missile Operations: Information Warfare; Combat Support and Force Modernization. Air Force ROTC and U.S. Air Force Academy cadets also may apply.

Additionally, eligible officers should have no more than 10 years of commissioned service; no less than two years time on station; the ability to meet application and testing requirements for the school in which they apply; and will incur a service commitment following completion

of the program.

Officers selected for this program must seek their advanced degree in one of the following areas: Computer Science (Advanced/Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence, or Machine Learning); Engineering (Autonomous Systems, Hypersonics, Optics, Robotics, Sensors, or Stealth); Physics (Advanced Materials or Directed Energy); and Other (Biotechnology, Ethics in Technology, Strategic Economics, or Strategic Foresight).

Detailed information about the criteria and application process is available on the myPers website [https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/46898/p/9/c/549](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/46898/p/9/c/549).

DAWN-ED Program Managers will host four (4) telephonic conference calls to talk with and answer questions from officers and cadets considering this opportunity, additional information for these calls is contained in the program announcements at these websites:

DAWN-ED Master's Announcement:  
[https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/47356](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/47356)

DAWN-ED Ph.D. Announcement:  
[https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/47357](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/47357)

For more information, contact the DAWN-ED program managers at AETC.DAWN.  
[Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:Workflow@us.af.mil).