

# 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

A P R I L 1 6 , 2 0 2 1



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

*Nyah Gray was recently named Operation Homefront's 2021 Military Child of the Year® for the Air Force. Gray was honored by the 353rd Training Squadron, Special Warfare Training Wing, during an Air Force Tactical Air Control Party, or TACP, final formation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex April 2.*

## TACPs recognize Air Force Military Child of the Year

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## METC occupational therapy trainees helping patients thrive

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# Army SHARP director: Preventing sexual assault everyone's responsibility

By Devon L. Suits

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Building a culture of prevention, awareness, trust and support continues to drive efforts within the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, as it works toward rolling out new changes to eliminate those harmful behaviors.

"As we turn our focus to National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month during April, it is going to take all of us working together throughout the year," said Jill Londagin, the SHARP program director.

"Together, we can work toward eliminating inappropriate behavior and prevent sexual violence," she said in an interview Tuesday. "Every member of our Army family has an obligation to live the Army's values and ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect."

## Restoring trust

Year-round, the SHARP program maintains its commitment to eliminating sexual harassment/assault and associated retaliation, in addition to supporting survivors and holding offenders accountable, she said.

The success of the program requires leaders at all levels to take responsibility through the development and maintenance of professional organizational climates, she said.

It is incumbent of all leaders to harbor an environment built on trust, all while reinforcing the Army's values and culture throughout constant training across a Soldier's career.

Unit cohesion is also a core focus of the Army's "This is My Squad" initiative, which aims to create unified, physically fit, trained and ready teams.

"We believe a culture of trust can prevent or stop a sexual assault," Londagin said. "Squad leaders are the most influential members of the unit. They set the climate and they know and understand their Soldiers and their families. They actively influence squad members to perform at their maximum potential and adhere to the Army's values."

In addition to building trust at the unit level, the Army has established the People First Task Force to address the list of findings and recommendations from the



CALEB BARRIEAU

*April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and it is going to take all Army personnel working together to eliminate inappropriate behavior and prevent sexual violence, according to the director of SHARP.*

Fort Hood Independent Review Committee report released in December.

One immediate action under the task force included an Army-wide solarium, held in mid-March at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, Londagin said.

One hundred junior officers and enlisted Soldiers throughout the active duty, Guard, and Reserve participated in the event. They were divided into smaller groups to discuss ways to rid the Army of sexual harassment/assault, discrimination/extremism, and suicide.

Task force recommendations will inform changes to Army policy, programs, and directives to ensure the safety and well-being of personnel, as the Army continues to address behaviors that impact cohesion and trust.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III also recently directed a 90-day Independent Review Commission on countering sexual assault within the military, Londagin said. One of the commission's lines of effort will target victim support and care, as the Department of Defense and Army build a better culture of trust and support.

Building a culture of prevention, awareness, trust and support continues to drive efforts within the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, as it works toward rolling out new changes to eliminate those harmful behaviors. April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and it is going to take all Army personnel working together throughout the year to eliminate inappropriate

behavior and prevent sexual violence, according to the director of SHARP.

## Proving support

Trust and support go hand in hand, Londagin said. Sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates are standing by to support individuals with resources, advocacy services, or guide them through the restricted or unrestricted reporting process.

Peers and leaders also need to be mindful, supportive, and non-judgmental, particularly if a survivor chooses to disclose information about an assault, Londagin added.

"We know that it's not always easy to respond to someone when they tell you that they have been sexually assaulted, especially if it's a friend or family member," she said.

"Often listening is the best way to support the survivor. Using phrases such as 'I believe you; I support you; and I want you to know that you are not alone,' goes a long way to show support."

While SHARP professionals continue to be ready when an incident occurs, Soldiers, civilians and family members can also learn about the range of resources available to a survivor. Victims can seek medical attention or behavioral health support, report a crime through the Army Criminal Investigation Command, or even call the DOD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

The helpline is a secure, confidential, and anonymous crisis support service specially designed for DOD personnel affected by sexual assault.

"It is also important to highlight 'bystander intervention' or anything that someone can do to stop a potentially harmful situation," Londagin said. "It is everyone's responsibility to maintain a safe and respectful Army and we need everyone to stand up and step up against this behavior."

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Joint Base San Antonio  
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing  
and JBSA Commander

BRIG. GEN.

CAROLINE M. MILLER

502nd ABW/JBSA  
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ANGELINA CASAREZ

Editor  
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LORI BULTMAN

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TYLER MCQUISTON

SABRINA FINE

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

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# Feedback Fridays

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

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

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

**Q. Now that Texas is allowing any person, regardless of age, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, will JBSA bases be doing the same? When and where can active duty military get vaccinated? Thank you.**

**A.** Thank you for your question. Starting March 29, adults ages 16 and

older were eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. However, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center will not expand to that population at this time.

We continue to administer the vaccine to the following populations: high-risk beneficiaries ages 16-64, beneficiaries age 65 and up, and Phase 1a and 1b military and civilian personnel (Department of Defense healthcare, national security and frontline essential personnel).

As background, based on the CDC's guidance, the Department of Defense developed its own population schema to prioritize vaccination efforts. It's important to note that DOD has unique considerations for its population including Critical National Capabilities and personnel deploying to overseas locations.

So, you may notice that the DOD and Texas vary in their vaccine administration due to the prioritization of different populations and targeted

distribution of the available vaccine.

As a reminder, beneficiaries who fit the criteria outlined above can book appointments on TRICARE Online at <https://www.tricareonline.com> or call the CAMO appointment line during duty hours at 210-916-9900.

With a limited number of appointments available, beneficiaries are also welcome to visit TRICARE Online anytime to look for open appointments due to cancellations.

Phase 1a and 1b personnel who are not TRICARE beneficiaries should book appointments through their organization. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to look for vaccine opportunities within the community as we strive to build public immunity.

**Q. Since you have lowered the level of access to JBSA-Lackland, I would like to know if you could reconsider the current closure of some gates, especially the JBSA-Lackland Selfridge East gate that allows access to the BX and the**

**commissary. The current wait at the open gates is very long.**

**A.** Thank you for your email and concern about traffic conditions at the JBSA-Lackland gates. The 802d Security Forces Squadron strives to meet customer needs while balancing safety and security requirements with available manpower and COVID-19 precautions.

We continually monitor gate traffic to analyze wait times and where it may be appropriate to make adjustments to policies and procedures.

For a variety of reasons, including decreased Basic Military Training and technical school training visitation, gate wait times are significantly lower than pre-COVID wait times.

We will continue to monitor gate wait times and will adjust when requirements are validated. We recommend you consider using the Growden gate as it rarely has any delay. Thank you for your feedback and patience.

## U.S. Air Force rolls out new mission statement

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Dewberry

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force released its new mission statement: To fly, fight, and win ... Airpower anytime, anywhere. This change emphasizes the primary competitive advantage and capabilities that Airpower provides to the nation and joint operations.

The ability to fight and win with Airpower is key to facing emerging competitors and near-peer adversaries, according to service leaders.

"As we developed this new mission statement, we consulted Airmen from across the entire spectrum – enlisted, officers, Reservists, Guardsmen and civilians," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.

Since the domain of space



ROSARIO CHARO GUTIERREZ

falls under the Space Force, the Air Force can now focus solely on Airpower and maintain a sustained focus on core air domain missions.

With a Total Force of more than 689,000, Airmen work to support all aspects of Airpower, which includes five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global

mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. Airpower also requires people and resources dedicated to unit readiness, base infrastructure and talent management.

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force emphasized that all Airmen, no matter what Air

Force Specialty Code they serve in, play an important role in generating military airpower for the nation.

"As the new mission statement was formulated, it was important to us that all Airmen see where they fit in," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. "Every Airman, from every career field, is directly responsible for delivering, supporting, launching and driving Airpower, which is the culmination of our diverse specialties, expertise and capabilities that make up our great Air Force."

Brown also underscored the importance of the Total Force in making American Airpower a reality.

"Delivering airpower for our nation requires more than just aircraft," Brown added. "It requires total force Airmen – active duty, Guard, Reserve,

civilians – in all Air Force specialties working together as a seamless team to operate, maintain and enable our mission and bring the unique capabilities and effects of airpower to bear."

In order to accomplish the mission of Airpower, Air Force leaders call on Airmen to accelerate change and to think about future challenges before they are in front of them.

"Our national security is not just on the shoulders of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force or other service chiefs," Brown said during his 2021 Air Force Association Aerospace Warfare Symposium fireside chat. "It's all of us together that have an interest in this; and the way we work together on this, and make progress together and understand what's out there in the future, and really appreciate that, will help all of us move faster."

# Military spouses worldwide to join online for DOD's annual virtual symposium

By Terri Moon Cronk

DOD NEWS

This year's Virtual Military Spouse Symposium — scheduled for April 27-29 — is geared for male and female spouses to learn about career development and well-being, whether they're students or veteran careerists, Military OneSource's director for military community support programs said.

Lee Kelley said the symposiums, which began five years ago with a focus on education and careers, have always been interspersed with issues surrounding well-being that speak to the holistic needs of military spouses.

"We want to provide sessions to military spouses that are going to recharge them, inspire them, and give them the tools that they need as they take steps [toward their goals]," she said. "We want to give them an opportunity to engage virtually — not only with our subject matter experts — but with military spouses themselves and create that community space for a few days that's solely set aside for military spouses."

A worldwide endeavor, Kelley said 3,500 spouses from 15 nations attended last year. It's for military spouses at any stage of their military life, she added.

Employment guidance will focus on federal and private-sector jobs, including "portable" careers that can go from one duty station to another, such as home-based businesses. The symposium will also highlight how military spouses can access career opportunities through the Defense Department's Military Spouse Employment Partnership, which includes more than 500 companies and



*A U.S. Air Force Airman hugs his spouse after returning from a deployment at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 18, 2019. Airmen assigned to the 317th AW returned home after their deployment to Afghanistan and worked together to haul over 10,000 tons of cargo.*

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MERCEDES PORTER / 7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

corporations, Kelley said.

The symposium's first two days will focus on sessions about career development and well-being; a relationship summit follows on the last day.

The relationship summit is a time for military spouses to focus solely on intimate-partner relationships and will begin with a discussion by Army Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of the Army Forces Command, and his wife about their experiences in the military, the challenges they've faced, and the resources they have accessed along the way, Kelley said.

A new segment will address finding one's passion, she said,

adding that military spouses can expect an opportunity for self-reflection.

"I think they will enjoy some of the tools that are introduced in the Find Your Passion session," Kelley said. "The great thing about the resources of the Department of Defense is some of our career assessments are really geared toward helping military spouses recognize skill sets they might not even have known they have ... [It's] really a chance to engage online with a community around the information tools, resources and ideas that will, hopefully, empower military spouses to find what's going to be most fulfilling to them."

Trends in writing resumes

also will be among the featured topics and will include the latest information and strategies regarding resumes and tangible strategies for updating a resume and ensuring that it reflects a job applicant's strengths in a way that will be beneficial.

Additionally, Kelley said the symposium's chat pod always provides an opportunity to share experiences with other spouses.

"You see military spouses connecting with each other from around the world with shared interests, having had shared experiences. Every morning, when we start the symposium, we ask military spouses where they're joining us from, and it is remarkable to

see military spouses from all over the country and all over the world and then to see other spouses engaging, saying, 'Oh, I just came from Ramstein,' or 'I'm heading there next month.' You see those connections being made," she added.

"If you're a military spouse, we want to see you there," Kelley said of the symposium. "If you're a military spouse, we want you to join us online April 27 to 29. We want you to be a part of this online community. Join the thousands of spouses who have taken part in the symposium in years past. No matter what country you are joining from, we want you there with us lending your voice to the discussion and the ideas."

# JBSA adding renewable energy sources

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Earth Day 2021 approaches, Joint Base San Antonio continues to do its part to utilize renewable energy sources and reduce emissions by installing solar energy systems at multiple locations across San Antonio.

The current project underway was initiated by JBSA's former, now retired, energy manager, Andy Hinojosa, as an energy security and resiliency project that would leverage the Department of Energy's Energy Saving Performance Contracts, or ESPCs, according to William Schram, 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager for energy at JBSA.

Energy savings performance contracts allow federal agencies to procure energy savings and facility



COURTESY PHOTO

*A Department of Energy, Energy Saving Performance Contract project at Joint Base San Antonio involves the installation of solar energy systems on 55 buildings, and over several parking areas, at a cost of about \$46 million.*

improvements with no up-front capital costs or special appropriations from Congress.

From the ESPC, the project was given to Defense Logistics Agency Energy to manage the acquisition and to follow the contract from award through construction, Schram said.

The JBSA project involves the installation of solar energy systems on 55 buildings at the cost of about \$46 million. Systems will be installed on JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Kelly Annex, JBSA-Chapman Training Annex, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Schram said the benefits of the new solar energy systems will be a reduction in energy demand from the local utility provider, which will free power for other uses, and a reduction in energy costs for the installation overall.

The 55 systems will produce a little over 18 megawatts, or 26,783,122 kilowatt hours, per year, he said, adding that the projected savings for JBSA will be

approximately \$2.5 million annually.

Schram said the contract includes a maintenance agreement for the systems for the duration of the contract, and roof maintenance on the buildings with photovoltaic, or PV, systems installed.

The installation of the solar energy systems should not affect the buildings or the people inside. Most of the systems will be attached to building roofs with either a ballasted system for flat roofs or with clamps to standing seam metal roofs, and for the most part, out of public view.

Since the inception of Department of Energy indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity ESPCs in 1998, agencies have used the ESPC contracting vehicle to significantly reduce energy and operating costs and make progress toward meeting federal sustainability goals.

## Spring cleaning, grilling safety: Deterrence from fire

BY JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO  
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES

After a long winter, the desire to open up the screen doors and windows is a welcomed invitation. As the dust and accumulation of items have built up inside and outside the home, so has the chances for a fire. Decreasing your family's risk is a responsibility that must be taken seriously.

### Spring cleaning safety

Following these safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, will decrease the chances of such a fire tragedy:

**FACT:** Dryers and washing machines were involved in one out of every 22 home fires, with dryers accounting for 92 percent of the fires.

**What to do:** Clean lint filter with each load of laundry and remove all lint from around surrounding your dryer clear of flammable items like clothing and cleaning supplies. Every six months, clean the dryer exhaust vent tube.

**FACT:** Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported house fire in half.

**What to do:** Make sure you test your smoke alarms once a month and change the battery once a year. Installed a smoke detector in every bedroom, hallway and level of your home. It's recommended to change batteries twice a year.

**FACT:** Most home cooking fires involve the stovetop.

**What to do:** Keep flammable items away from the stove, never leave cooking unattended.

**FACT:** Nine-volt batteries can start fires. Batteries stored in drawers surrounded by metal objects – such as paper clips, coins or other batteries – and flammable items increase fire chances.

**What to do:** Keep batteries in original packaging until ready to use them. Battery posts that come into contact with metal can make enough heat to start a battery fire. Store batteries standing up.

**FACT:** Extension cord fires outnumbered fires with

permanent power cords by two to one.

**What to do:** Make sure your electrical cords are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are meant for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician add more outlets if needed.

Grilling is as American as hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. With warmer temperatures, the thought of "firing up the old grill" comes into mind. Before engaging in this pastime with family and friends, take a few moments to ensure your grill is safe to operate.

The following safety tips are from NFPA:

▶ Propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors.

▶ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches at least 20-50 feet.

▶ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

▶ Keep your grill clean by

removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

▶ Never leave your grill unattended.

▶ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

### Grilling safety

There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as fuel.

If using starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.

There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container. For propane grills, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the

first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there are no flames, turn off both the gas tank and the grill.

If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

For information about spring cleaning or grilling safety, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at:

<http://www.nfpa.org/education> or contact the Joint Base San Antonio fire prevention offices. Call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## METC occupational therapy assistant trainees helping patients accomplish daily life tasks

By London Prince

MEDICAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING  
CAMPUS PROTOCOL ASSISTANT

April is Occupational Therapy Month and honors a profession that helps people to accomplish the everyday tasks they need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities.

Occupational therapists often work with people with disabilities, injuries, and mental illnesses to help get patients back on track to their everyday lives, from learning to walk to strength recovery, among other daily tasks.

Occupational therapy assistants, or OTAs, help people who struggle with everyday tasks by providing a treatment to improve motor skills, balance, and coordination. OTAs can help anyone at any stage of life and work in settings such as skilled nursing facilities, school systems, children's clinics, rehabilitation facilities and orthopedics.

Dating back to 100 B.C., used by Greek physicians Asclepiades and Celsus, occupational therapy was once used for the treatment of patients with emotional and mental disorders. Recommended therapy would include travel, therapeutic massages, exercise, conversation and music to soothe the mind.

"Occupational Therapy Month is a time when we can share the awesome work that we do and showcase that OT is here and we can help no matter the issue; from healing wounds and recovering strength, to finding new hobbies and new work interests," said Staff Sgt.



LONDON PRINCE

*Staff Sgt. William Cox (left), an Army instructor in the Medical and Education Training Campus Occupational Therapy Assistant program, observes a student practicing convective thermal therapy, used to enhance flexibility and circulation while decreasing the need for anti-inflammatory and analgesic medications.*

William Cox, an instructor in the occupational therapy program at the Medical and Education Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"It is a time to not only let the community know who we are but it also provides awareness to other health care providers by allowing them to offer another resource to their clinics that could help patients in their recovery," he added.

The METC OTA program trains Army and Navy students to become occupational therapy assistants. The eight-month-long program is broken down into two phases.

In phase one, the students are in the schoolhouse learning general studies of occupational therapy and the required skills needed to be an occupational therapy assistant. Students also get to practice skills in practical labs and testing.

In phase two, the students will work in two different clinical settings putting their skills and knowledge to the test in local hospitals and clinics around the city and around the country.

After graduation, active duty Army students are assigned to a medical treatment facility, or MTF, or a Holistic Health and Fitness unit while National

Guard and Reserve students go back to their hometowns and begin working as OTAs.

Navy students are assigned to inpatient/ outpatient MTFs. Navy OTAs are also stationed at overseas MTFs providing school-related services as part of the Education Developmental Intervention Services team.

"Our program is nationally accredited and graduates of the program earn an associate degree from the Uniformed Services University as well the privilege to sit on the national board for certification as an OTA," stated Cox.

Spc. Zachary Berdan, an

Army student in the program, said that he was more than happy that he chose occupational therapy as a career field.

"This field grabbed me because I wanted to help people recover," he said. "What I enjoy most about the training is that there hasn't been a block of instruction that I thought was boring or unnecessary."

Berdan added that all of the instruction has intrigued him, even inspiring him to do more research in his free time.

"I have been learning how emotionally and spiritually rewarding occupational therapy can be."

# 62nd Airlift Wing airlifts COVID-19 patient to BAMC

By Senior Airman  
Mikayla Heineck

62ND AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 62nd Airlift Wing's quick action enabled a COVID-19 patient to be airlifted from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, March 31.

The individual was a patient at JBLM's Madigan Army Medical Center and was in severe respiratory distress and had undergone surgery earlier to be hooked up to an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, system. The system pumps and oxygenates a patient's blood outside the body, allowing the heart and lungs to rest.

Earlier that day, an aircrew made up of Airmen from the 4th and 7th Airlift Squadrons picked up an aeromedical



SENIOR AIRMAN MIKAYLA HEINECK

*A COVID-19 patient is loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III by an aeromedical evacuation team from the 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation flight from Travis Air Force Base, California, on March 31.*

evacuation team from the 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation flight at Travis Air Force Base, California. The members of the evacuation team are experts in and caring for patients during flights.

“The timing [of loading and takeoff] is a little more flexible [with an aeromedical flight] than it normally is just based on the needs of the mission,” said Maj. Ian Scott, 4th Airlift Squadron pilot. “The biggest

thing we have to be mindful of [with mission planning for an AE flight] is what type of restrictions the patient's condition would have on the environment in the airplane.”

The patient was being transported to BAMC, where there are more available people who are experts on the ECMO system and will be readily able to maintain or repair it if something went wrong.

The patient arrived at the aircraft with additional medical professionals from Madigan trained in keeping the ECMO system running. Before their arrival, the AE crew covered their luggage and equipment in plastic bags to lessen the risk of cross-contamination and everyone on the aircraft wore the appropriate personal protective equipment.

“What we do is to make sure that the patient's transportation goes smoothly and safely,” said

Maj. Paul Blycheck, 775th EAEF medical crew director. “We have to consider the safety of the patient, and everyone involved — the AE crew, the pilots, and loadmasters — especially when it's something contagious, like COVID-19.”

The patient was hooked up to a full ventilator, in addition to the ECMO system, so anything they were breathing out was contained, Blycheck said.

The crew successfully took off later that night and transported the patient to BAMC, where they were evaluated.

“It was good to see all of these individuals from different branches and bases come together last minute to potentially save this patient's life,” said Col. Robert Lankford, 62nd Operations Group commander. “I am proud of the Airmen of the 62nd Airlift Wing for making the mission happen.”

# JBSA M&FRCs plan virtual military spouse conference

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military spouses who want to enhance their personal relationships and well-being will have the opportunity to do so during a virtual conference being planned by the Joint Base San Antonio Military & Family Readiness Centers April 30-May 1.

The JBSA Embolden Spouse Conference is hosting 12 classes and workshops for military spouses, including a panel discussion, which will all be held in a virtual format.

The conference kicks off with a networking night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 30, then resumes May 1 with classes, workshops, activities, a keynote speaker, and a panel discussion, all scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The conference is open to all military spouses, Department of Defense civilians and anyone with a DOD ID card. Individuals can register for the conference at <https://e.afit.edu/QQQQddFW>. The registration deadline is April 22.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC community readiness consultant Criselda Guerrero-Smith said the theme of this year's conference is "Discovering your Significance," with an emphasis on building strong relationships within the military family.

Spouses who register for the conference will have a choice of classes and workshops they

A VIRTUAL MILITARY SPOUSE CONFERENCE

**emBOLDen**  
inspiring confidence, courage, and strength

**Networking • Interactive Presentations • Inspirational Speakers**  
Embracing the military lifestyle demands, military spouses endure countless moves, career changes, stressful deployments, and separations, all in support of their service member's success. This conference covers multiple topics tailored to embolden military spouses and help them support and encourage one another. From military and marriage to mindfulness and personal wellness, building relationships at new duty stations and with your kids, home and safety, and much more.

**NETWORKING**  
April 30 • 6:30-8:30 PM

**CONFERENCE**  
May 1 • 8 AM-3:45 PM

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
Registration Deadline: April 22, 2021  
Open to all Joint Base San Antonio military spouses. Scan the QR code or visit <https://e.afit.edu/QQQQddFW> to register. Call (210) 221-2705 for more information.

Military & Family Readiness  
Military Family Team Building  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

facebook.com/mfrcjbsa

want to participate in by selecting from virtual links emailed to them or by picking up an enrichment packet, which includes information on the conference's classes and workshops. Packets will be available at the M&FRC's, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, from April 26-29.

Guerrero-Smith said

the ideas for the conference's classes and workshops came from surveys completed by JBSA spouses in December.

According to the surveys, the areas spouses were most interested in included military and marriage, mindfulness, personal wellness, building relationships with children and family, gun safety, and financial goal

toolbox to continue to push forward with these new challenges," Guerrero-Smith said. "We want them to look at themselves and decide what classes fit their particular need."

On the first day of the conference, during the networking night, spouses will go into different virtual breakout rooms where they will have a chance to ask questions, meet other participants, and then end the evening by participating in fun activities.

The second day of the conference will start with keynote speaker Bonita Owens, personal growth coach, leadership facilitator, author, and military spouse. Then, the conference will divide into classes and workshops conducted by JBSA M&FRC staff members and subject matter experts.

Guerrero-Smith said the focus and theme of this year's Embolden

Conference are different than those of the first conference, which was held in 2019 and focused on employment opportunities for military spouses. Last year's Embolden Conference was canceled due to COVID-19.

"It was really interesting to us how it shifted from just getting a job to it becoming very personal," Guerrero-Smith said. "We're home with our kids all the time. We're having to deal with these relationships with kids and social distancing, and I believe this year, when we talk about 'Discovering your Significance' for military spouses, we're bringing it to a personal level."

For more information on the conference, contact the M&FRCs at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321.

COURTESY GRAPHIC

# MICC drill rehearses key steps in absentee Soldier reporting

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION  
CONTRACTING COMMAND PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mission and Installation Contracting Command leaders at the headquarters, brigade and battalion levels joined key stakeholders from the Army Human Resources Command and directorate of emergency services virtually March 5 to examine new Army guidance and rehearse critical steps in an event of an absentee Soldier.

The rehearsal of concept drill follows the December announcement by the Army secretary regarding a new policy on missing Soldiers as well as expectations and responsibilities of unit commanders and Army law enforcement when a Soldier fails to report for duty.

The MICC Operations Directorate led the ROC drill, which included the command teams from the MICC, 419th and 418th Contracting Support Brigades and 901st and 904th Contracting Battalions as well as representatives from the HRC Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Fort Stewart Directorate of Emergency Services in Georgia.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

“The ROC drill was built upon an Army absent Soldier flowchart depicting actions to be taken by unit commanders, unit personnel staff, public affairs officers, directorates of emergency services, and human resources command at a minimum,” said Master Sgt. Enrique Torres, MICC Operations Directorate NCO.

Due to the complexity of reporting, Torres broke down the flowchart to rehearse two scenarios in which a Soldier is determined to be voluntarily absent and involuntarily absent from their assigned unit or designated place of duty.

The first scenario followed a timeline in which a commander could not determine the whereabouts of a Soldier but discovered the burden of proof indicated a voluntary absence, proceeding to that Soldier being identified as absent without leave and subsequent procedures taken as outlined by Army regulation.

The second, more complex scenario involved decisions and actions of a Soldier found to be involuntarily absent after their whereabouts could not be determined by their commander and a voluntary absence lacked a burden of proof.

Participants at the various echelons discussed individual actions to be taken along a strict timeline and learned how those actions are interwoven with other reporting procedures by representatives with casualty and mortuary affairs along with installation emergency services.

“I was extremely impressed with the amount of time and attention to detail that Torres put into the event. Having the ability to reach out to so many people in one event was imperative as it afforded everyone the opportunity to collaborate, ask questions or raise concerns that they may have,” said Andy Newbrough, a line of duty analyst with the Human Resource Command Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division. “This also provided the opportunity for everyone to walk away with a better understanding regarding the absence unknown and duty status whereabouts unknown process.”

Newbrough is responsible for coordinating and managing all absence unknown and duty status whereabouts unknown cases for the Army. Upon identification of a Soldier as duty status whereabouts unknown by a commander, he

monitors and advises on all aspects of the process until receipt of the investigation by the Human Resources Command.

“Being familiar and having an understanding of the casualty process before needing it is crucial due to the fact that this could be considered a perishable skill,” Newbrough said. “I relate the casualty process to maintenance as most people don’t provide it a great deal of thought until they need it. The Army and casualty mortuary affairs branch is dedicated to providing continued support to the forces in the field.”

Torres explained that key tasks achieved during the ROC drill included becoming familiar with policies and regulations governing reporting of personnel in duty status missing, absent-unknown, absent without leave, and duty status whereabouts unknown; identifying and discussing actions required at the onset of reporting a Soldier as absent unknown duty status; ensuring assigned human resources personnel to understand reporting requirements and personnel actions; and identifying necessary points of contact.

## People, processes, performance focus of MICC leadership

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Leaders from across the Mission and Installation Contracting Command met virtually recently to discuss a number of topics aimed at reinforcing the command’s efforts toward the Army’s priorities of people, modernization and readiness.

Leaders from the headquarters, brigades, field directorate offices,

battalions and contracting offices came together over the collaborative virtual venue Microsoft Teams Feb. 25 to March 3 as part of the annual MICC Senior Contracting Official/Director Acquisition Training, or SDAT, event.

The SDAT kicked off Feb. 25 with a two-day independent project analysis by leaders before reconvening March 1-3 for a series of general sessions providing updates on MICC operations and policies as well as breakout sessions offering in-depth discussions at the

executive level designed at improving or developing a better understanding of policies and procedures.

“It is incredibly important to bring the Team MICC leadership together to review how the people, process and performance components of readiness enable our ability to consistently deliver support to our mission partners and become the most effective contracting organization in Army Contracting Command,” said Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler, MICC commanding general.

Clay Cole, deputy to the MICC commanding general, added in opening remarks that while face-to-face meetings among leaders facilitate the sharing of information, the alternative virtual platform offers the benefit of including additional key personnel across the command vital to the success of the mission in a pandemic environment.

“You’ve done remarkably well this past year and have adapted to numerous

MICC continues on 14

# JBSA continues to develop, test electromagnetic defense, 5G technologies

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO  
ELECTROMAGNETIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

Over the last year, San Antonio has experienced energetic growth in its tech community, bolstered by expanding world-class research and education centers and the addition of new and emerging industries, many relocating to Port San Antonio, and all of which could greatly advance Joint Base San Antonio's efforts to establish adequate electromagnetic defense of military facilities and missions.

San Antonio's strong military ties and rich educational opportunities, such as the University of Texas San Antonio's National Security Collaboration Center and the new School of Data Science which broke ground recently, will help elevate San Antonio to become one of the fastest growing tech hubs in the country, said Michael Lovell, executive director of the Joint Base San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative.

San Antonio is also home to nationally known research centers, including Southwest Research Institute, the Department of Energy's Cyber Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CyManII), and UT Health San Antonio, making it one of the nation's top locations for emerging tech and research, Lovell said.

Currently, 5G communications are one of the most promising technologies being developed by tech industries, and through military test sites like the one at JBSA.

"The Department of Defense is at the forefront of cutting edge 5G testing and experimentation, which will strengthen our Nation's warfighting capabilities as well as U.S. economic competitiveness in this critical field," said Michael Kratsios, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. "Through these test sites, the Department is leveraging its unique authorities to pursue bold innovation at a scale and scope unmatched anywhere else in the world. Importantly, today's announcement demonstrates the Department's commitment to exploring the vast



NELSON JAMES

*Over the last year, San Antonio has experienced energetic growth in its tech community, bolstered by expanding world-class research and education centers and the addition of new and emerging industries, many relocating to Port San Antonio, and all of which could advance Joint Base San Antonio's efforts to establish adequate electromagnetic defense of military facilities and missions.*

potential applications and dual-use opportunities that can be built upon next-generation networks,"

In October 2020, DOD awarded \$600 million in funding to five military bases enabling them to work with industry and academia to develop 5G testbeds that will be used to design cutting-edge 5G applications. Earlier this year, they added an additional seven military bases, including JBSA, which will receive a second slice, also called tranche 2, funding.

So, Lovell said, 2021 brings an awesome opportunity for Joint Base San Antonio to lead a national initiative to drive 5G innovation and security for Texas, the military, and the nation.

## Why 5G?

The addition of 5G technology will enable more than just ultrafast video downloads and video conferences that don't drop.

"5G will enable smart cities, factories, and homes that are efficient and safe," Lovell said. "It will transmit sensor data in real time to provide

early warnings of events ranging from natural disasters to heart attacks. It has tremendous potential to change our lives in ways we are now only beginning to imagine."

With 5G capabilities, there are three services that make it transformational over its predecessors: enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB), ultrareliable low-latency communications (URLLC), and massive machine-type communications (mMTC).

The eMBB use case is the first phase of the 5G rollout as it utilizes current, "non-stand-alone" 5G technology, meaning that when your mobile device sends a 5G signal to a cell tower, the signal from the cell tower goes to a 4G core, said Dr. Patti Geppert, a member of the JBSA 5G experimentation team.

"The eMBB technology uses non-stand-alone 5G to produce a significant increase in the amount of data transmitted (bandwidth) and increase in the speed at which data is transmitted, thereby decreasing the signal delay (latency)," she said. "The eMBB use case brings reliable

connectivity to moving vehicles and crowded venues to create a seamless mobile user experience. The increased bandwidth and lower latency enable a truly immersive virtual reality (VR) experience, which makes it a more effective platform for education and training."

Currently, the 5G mMTC use case runs on non-stand-alone 5G.

"The mMTC use case enables the connection of massive numbers of cellular IoT (Internet of Things) devices," Geppert said. "Since there are billions of IoT devices being used worldwide, each transmitting small amounts of data, mMTC is important for real-time IoT data collection in locations such as hospitals, factories, and other data-intensive locales to improve efficiency and quality of life.

"While you will see performance improvement with current, non-stand-alone 5G technologies, you will have to wait for 5G technology to become stand-alone to experience the full benefit of 5G," she said. "With stand-alone 5G, the 5G tower sends its signal to a 5G core. That is where the true magic happens. Not only does the stand-alone 5G enhance the performance of eMBB and mMTC, it enables ultrareliable low-latency communications. These are used for mission-critical tasks, such as telerobotic surgery, where high volumes of data are transferred over a connection that must be uninterrupted and secure."

All these capabilities lead to the importance of Joint Base San Antonio being selected by the DOD to lead 5G experimentation pilot programs, Lovell said.

"The JBSA 5G NextGen initiative will make San Antonio a center of gravity for 5G technology development, particularly in 5G cybersecurity and 5G telemedicine, driving innovation and economic development in the region," he said.

*(Editor's note: The mention of non-federal organizations is simply informational and not intended to imply endorsement by the U.S. Government, the DOD, or the U.S. Air Force.)*

# LACKLAND

## TACPs recognize Military Child of the Year

By Andrew C. Patterson

SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nyah Gray was recently named Operation Homefront's 2021 Military Child of the Year® for the Air Force.

Gray was honored by the 353rd Training Squadron, Special Warfare Training Wing, during an Air Force Tactical Air Control Party, or TACP, final formation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex April 2.

Selectees for the honor were chosen based on the positive impacts they had on their military family, school, and community.

"Nyah has been the unofficial ambassador of the TACP community, attending our local events and supporting other Gold Star kids who have lost a family member," said Matthew McMurtry, 353rd SWTS commander. "Nyah, our community congratulates you on your many achievements."

Nyah's mother, Heather Gray Blalock, said that after her father's death in 2012, the then-eight-year-old took on responsibilities at home, pitched in with cooking and helping her two younger siblings with homework.

"Thank you for your continued support of our family, and all the Gold Star families," Heather said. "You are critical in maintaining their legacies."

During the ceremony, the names of fallen TACP members are called out in unison by all in attendance.

"The Final Formation is a ceremony the TACP community holds to memorialize their fallen comrades with push-ups," McMurtry said. "Today's significant call out is for Nyah's father, Maj. David Gray."

Gray was a TACP air liaison officer who gave his life for his country while serving in Afghanistan. He and three others died in an attack by a suicide bomber.

Nyah expressed her appreciation



PHOTOS BY ANDREW C. PATTERSON

The 353rd Training Squadron, Special Warfare Training Wing, honored Nyah Gray as the 2021 Military Child of the Year® for the Air Force, during a "Final Formation" ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex on April 2. The ceremony memorializes fallen servicemen with memorial push-ups. Nyah's father, Maj. David Gray, was a TACP air liaison officer who was killed in action in 2012 while serving in Afghanistan.

for the continued support the TACP community has given her family and she is proud to represent them and the Air Force.

"I have been part of the TACP family for a while now and I want to thank all of you for supporting and helping me all these years with the loss of my dad," she said. "I am honored to unofficially represent the TACP community. Thank you for honoring my dad."

An Air Force Tactical Air Control Party is part of Air Force Special Warfare, or AFSPECWAR, which consists of ground combat forces that specialize in airpower application across hostile, denied, or diplomatically or politically sensitive environments.

Members of AFSPECWAR are employed to provide global access, precision strike, and personnel recovery capabilities across the spectrum of conflict and the multi-domain battlefield.



Nyah Gray was recently named Operation Homefront's 2021 Military Child of the Year® for the Air Force. Gray was honored by the 353rd Training Squadron, Special Warfare Training Wing, during an Air Force Tactical Air Control Party, or TACP, Final Formation ceremony on April 2.

# 149th Medical Group Gunfighters holding COVID-19 vaccine clinics



149TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 149<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Gunfighters at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland have been working to give COVID-19 vaccines to all who want and are eligible for one.

Their efforts and attention to detail have contributed to efficient operations and quality, patient-centered care.

The medical group will be holding vaccination clinics on Fridays to accommodate all eligible Department of Defense beneficiaries.



DEREK DAVIS

Staff Sgt. Sandra Ramirez, 149<sup>th</sup> Medical Group health systems technician, prepares vaccination cards April 1 for that day's COVID-19 vaccination recipients.

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Montejo, 149<sup>th</sup> Medical Group readiness noncommissioned officer, gives a COVID-19 vaccination to an active duty member's spouse during a vaccine clinic on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on April 1. The 149<sup>th</sup> MDG is holding weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all eligible beneficiaries.

RYAN MANCUSO

## MICC

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changing situations. Adapt, change and move ahead is sort of the way of life within this organization because the Army changes," Cole said. "Of the contracting entities, we are the closest to the organizational Army than anybody else, and we must be far more adept and far more willing to change what we do. We are very much at the forefront of not just the national military picture, but also the national and strategic implications of operations

**"We are very much at the forefront of not just the national military picture, but also the national and strategic implications of operations across the board."**

Clay Cole, deputy to the MICC commanding general

across the board."

Cole led the two-day independent project analysis last week by asking leaders to work within their respective organizations to identify tasks they accomplish on a daily basis, the amount of time each

leader spends performing those tasks, and the importance of each action in order to improve productivity and efficiency.

This week, the SDAT agenda dedicated a day of discussions each to people, processes and performance. People topics

covered included the command's priorities, operational updates, return-to-work guidance, hiring, Employee Assistance Program, equal employment opportunity, and the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

The focus on processes on the second day included long-range planning, operational leadership expectations, labor relations, investigations and the small business program. Performance topics discussed on the third day encompassed category management and

strategic initiatives, individual group breakout sessions, skills competency and anticipated changes in staff this summer.

Command Sgt. Maj. Chantel Sena-Diaz, MICC senior enlisted adviser, said that events focusing on people, processes and performance contribute toward an environment that builds high, achieving teams.

"We must continue to develop our Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians into competent, confident leaders of character, and good contracting will follow," Sena-Diaz said.

# Goodfellow wing commander visits IAAFA

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 17th Training Wing commander from Goodfellow Air Force Base visited with leaders and students at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 15.

Col. Andres Nazario met with members of International Student Support and briefed approximately 40 international and U.S. Air Force members, as part of a visit to learn more about the top enlisted PME center in the Air Force. According to the colonel, the visit was prompted by a social media commentary about the International Student Officer Course at IAAFA.

“It was the first time I’ve been here at IAAFA and it was very important that I come and visit,” he said in Spanish.

Nazario, who is a graduate of the Inter-American Defense College in Washington, spoke about IAAFA’s role in national security and the importance of the academy’s relationship with our alliances in the world.

“This type of class is extremely important,” he said. “Each one of us learns from one another. That is the difference. The point is that not one of us completes the mission alone.”

Nazario concluded his visit to IAAFA with his thoughts on leadership, using LEAP as an acronym for love, energy, audacity and proof to continue to propel students to stand out as leaders.

The academy works closely with Goodfellow Air Force Base, located in San Angelo, which provides cryptologic and intelligence training for the Air Force, to keep IAAFA’s intelligence courses aligned with the schoolhouse’s curriculum.



VANESSA R. ADAME

*Capt. Daniel Sierra (left), International Squadron Officer Course student, asks a question during a briefing with Col. Andres Nazario (right), 17th Training Wing commander, at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 15. Nazario addressed U.S. Air Force members as part of a visit to learn more about the top enlisted PME center in the Air Force.*

## Tenant feedback drives housing programs improvement

By Zoe Schlott

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Department of the Air Force housing program officials are analyzing data from the recently completed 2020 Department of Defense Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey for trends and ways to improve the enterprise’s privatized and government-owned housing portfolio and tenant experience.

A private contractor distributed the survey to the DAF’s 68 privatized housing locations with an overall response rate of 30.1 percent. Overall, privatized housing projects scored an average rating of 77.2 in the survey, which concluded Feb. 5. The DAF’s target metric is 75 or higher. In 2019, the average satisfaction rate was 79.1.

This year’s results reflected more accurate data due to survey revisions. The lower score since last year is likely due to service and maintenance delays from COVID-19 precautionary measures taken by project own-

ers, said Jennifer Miller, acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy.

“We expected the improved survey to yield more accurate feedback,” Miller said. “We depend on honest feedback from the tenants to help us assess the performance of the projects and to understand where adjustments are needed to improve the resident experience.”

With DAF financing the survey for the first year, government-owned family housing projects were included in the data pool. The 14 government-owned projects scored an average of 74, a “very good” by industry standards and “acceptable” by the DAF’s performance indicators.

The overall score is a general indicator of project health and will aid housing leadership in developing sustainment plans, budgets and financial restructuring. The scores are comprised of ratings in nine business success factors: readiness to solve problems, responsiveness and follow-through, prop-

erty appearance and condition, quality of management service, quality of leasing, quality of maintenance, property rating, relationship rating and renewal intention. Within each category, tenants answered a set of questions using a sliding scale.

“The department takes tenant feedback seriously,” said Col. Sara Deaver, Air Force Housing Division chief at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, who oversees the management of DAF housing. “I look forward to working with the military housing and project owners to address the concerns our Airmen and Guardians raised in the survey.”

Eleven installations earned the Crystal Service Award for outstanding performance in 2020. The award recognizes installations with multiple neighborhoods that receive an overall score of 85 or higher and a 20% or higher resident response rate.

Crystal Service Award recipients are: Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida (Balfour Beatty Communities, LLC); Moody Air Force

Base, Georgia (BBC); Hurlburt Field, Florida (Corvias Military Living); McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas (Corvias); Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina (Corvias); Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. (Lendlease); Dyess Air Force Base, Texas (BBC); Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina (Hunt Military Communities); Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona (Lendlease); Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota (BBC); and Beale Air Force Base, California (BBC).

“We are proud of the projects that stood out,” Deaver said. “We are grateful to them for providing our military families with safe, quality, affordable, well-maintained housing communities where they choose to live.”

Representatives from each military department, Office of the Secretary of Defense and the third-party survey company worked together to evaluate and clarify the questions used following congressional testimony highlighting the possibility of misinterpretation. For example,

the term “property manager” left many tenants unsure as to whether they were evaluating the military housing office or the private company charged with property management.

Survey officials restructured the questions to ensure their effectiveness at capturing a project’s health and tenants’ sentiment in relation to the housing program. The goal is to ensure the integrity of tenant feedback while improving the trust tenants have in the tools provided to them to voice their concerns directly to the project owner, MHO and AFCEC.

Project owners at locations that received business success factor scores below 69.5 are required to submit an action plan to AFCEC within 30 days of the survey data being released. They are required to work closely with their installation’s housing office to monitor and track their progress in making program improvements. They’ll also report to AFCEC at quarterly intervals, said Yvonne

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# 59th MDW: How to obtain your medical records

By Airman 1st Class  
Melody Bordeaux

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIR

The 59th Medical Wing serves more than 240,000 beneficiaries with a team of only 12 Airmen and civilians who maintain medical records.

The TRICARE Operations and Patient Administration office, or TOPA, located on the third floor of Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, creates, maintains and quality checks all written medical records, and handles medical examination boards.

Before 2015, medical records were stored as hard copies. TOPA's medical records section still manages over 19,000 hard copy records in addition to current electronic records.

Ensuring patient's medical records are up-to-date allows for continuous quality care, while ensuring providers do not miss vital patient information in treatment.

"Let's say that you are separating [the military] and while in, you got a knee injury that you still have ongoing issues with, you want to keep getting that continuation care," said Staff Sgt. Tiffany Torres Mitchell, 59th Medical Support Squadron Medical Records Department noncommissioned officer in charge.

Patients will need their military



MELODY BORDEAUX

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Torres Mitchell, 59th Medical Support Squadron Medical Records Department noncommissioned officer in charge, checks released medical records at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 25.

identification card to obtain their medical records when going to TOPA. Legal guardians can request records for children under the age of 18. It is important to note, receiving medical records could take up to 30 days.

If patients are in the local area, the Release of Healthcare Information office will call to inform the patient TOPA has a

disc with their records to pick up. If a patient is no longer in the local area, RHI will send the medical records by mail or electronically by a government-approved file transfer website.

When in the process of a permanent change of station, provide TOPA with a copy of orders and the requested medical records will be transferred to the

patient's next base. If a patient has already moved to their new duty station and does not have their medical records, they can inform their medical treatment facility that their medical records need to be transferred from their previous MTF or they can call TOPA to initiate the necessary transfer.

Medical records are held at TOPA for patients receiving care within the 59th MDW. If a patient is no longer receiving care within the 59th MDW, a patient's record will be on hold for five years. After five years, the medical records are retired and sent to the National Personnel Records Center.

If a service member is separating or retiring, obtaining their medical records is crucial to ensure a smooth transition to Veteran's Health Administration care. Medical records also help with assessing a patient's disability benefits.

"[Patients need] to make sure it's a smooth transition from their care here to veteran's care. For example, my husband was prior military and he requested his medical records to make sure the VA is tracking everything that happened to him while he was in," Mitchell said.

For questions on medical records call TOPA at (210) 292-5988. For questions regarding the National Personnel Records Center call 1-866-272-6272. Read under "records" at <https://www.59mdw.af.mil/FAQ/> for information.

## PREVENTION

From page 2

personnel working together throughout the year to eliminate inappropriate behavior and prevent sexual violence, according to the director of SHARP.

### SHARP improvements

A stand-alone SHARP regulation is in the final stages of approval, as the Army looks to consolidate close to 15 different regulations and directives, Londagin said.

Once released, the new guidance will provide SHARP professionals and leaders one unified regulation to enable and improve sexual harassment / assault prevention and response requirements throughout the force.

While the policy is still under review, it could be approved and released within the next two months, Londagin said. However, findings by the PFTF and DOD

Independent Review Commission could delay the regulation's release to ensure all recommendations are reviewed and incorporated, as part of the program's transformation.

"We are trying to get it out to the field as quickly as possible. We know how imperative it is to have one stand-alone regulation to identify the responsibilities and activities of leaders and SHARP professionals to fully execute the program," she said.

Army senior leaders have also submitted a permanent exception to DOD policy to ensure proper care of Army civilians and adult dependents who have reported being sexually assaulted while stationed in the U.S. or abroad.

Under the current policy, the Army can only provide limited services to civilians and family members 18 years and older, if they are overseas, she added.

The new policy will provide individuals unrestricted reporting options and SARC

and victim advocate services. Civilians and adult dependents will also have access to advocacy services during the investigation, legal, and recovery process.

"Historically, we have asked for an exemption to policy for two years," Londagin said. With a permanent exemption in place, the Army can "provide the support our Army civilians and families need [and] the advocacy services that we know that they deserve."

SHARP program leaders are also working toward a centralized selection and management process for all SARCs and victim advocates.

A centralized selection process will help improve the program by setting standardized criteria for all SHARP personnel, Londagin said. Commanders will still be able to nominate a Soldier for a SARC and victim advocate role, while a centralized approach will ensure the best people are in place to support sexual harassment / assault prevention efforts.

## TENANT

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Brabham, Air Force Housing Division technical director.

"Tangible changes have been implemented in the DAF housing program that many tenants have started to see, such as a more robust satisfaction survey," Brabham said. "The Air Force understands we have more to do and are now better equipped with the feedback provided from our Airmen and Guardians to take the necessary measures to provide the quality family homes that our warfighters deserve."

The DOD Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey control number is 0704-0553 OMB, expiration date March 31, 2022.

# RANDOLPH

## AETC officials name building in honor of retired Gen. Stephen Wilson

By Dreshawn Murray  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND

Officials at Air Education Training Command named building 905 “Wilson Hall” and unveiled a plaque bearing the name and image of former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff retired Gen. Stephen Wilson during a building dedication ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 9.

“Gen. Wilson developed and sustained initiatives to protect Airmen and families. He pioneered agile combat employment for us to remain flexible while building multi-capable Airmen for future wars,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. “This dedication event encapsulates a legacy of innovation that is the story of Randolph Air Force Base, Air Training Command, Air Education and Training Command and now Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Today, we’ve enshrined Gen. Wilson on Randolph’s halls of honor.”

Webb also recognized the history and legacy across JBSA-Randolph, including the Lahm Conference Center named for Brig. Gen. Frank Lahm, Randolph’s first commander in 1920; Arnold House named for General Henry “Hap” Arnold, who accelerated technology development and encouraged the development of the B-17 and B-24; Pitsenbarger Hall named for Airman 1st Class William Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman who completed 250 rescue missions and took up arms to protect infantrymen until he was



TYLER MCQUISTON

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and retired Gen. Stephen Wilson (right), former Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, unveil the Wilson Hall dedication plaque April 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Wilson’s career began in AETC as a student pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base, followed by then an assignment as a T-38 Talon instructor pilot there.

fatally shot; and the Parr Club named for Col. Ralph Parr, an American double-flying ace of the Korean War, who was credited with 10 downed enemy aircraft and the only American pilot to receive both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross.

“This event is a continuing tradition of visionary Airmen immortalized by the First Command,” Webb said.

Wilson’s career began in AETC as a student pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, followed by an

assignment as a T-38 first assignment instructor pilot there. He also served in the command twice more as the 14th Flying Training Wing commander at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, and as deputy director of Air, Space and Information Operations Directorate at Headquarters AETC.

“I spent nearly 40 years in the Air Force and this is a big honor for me, Nancy and the Wilson family to be associated with AETC,” said Wilson. “A little known fact is I was

probably one of the longest service FAIPs in AETC. We had a wonderful time in AETC both as a FAIP (First Assignment Instructor Pilot) and in command.”

His final assignment was as the longest-serving in the second-highest-ranking officer position in the United States Air Force, retiring in 2020.

“As leaders, there is no more sacred duty than to prepare the next generation of Airmen for combat, it was our solemn obligation,” Wilson said. “No one takes on that mission more

to heart than the thousands of men and women who work here at AETC. They wake up with that singular purpose, to take America’s sons and daughters and develop them into world-class Airmen who can fly, fight, and win, who can deliver airpower anywhere, at any time.”

During his time as VCSAF, Wilson was the catalyst behind the Air Force’s AFWERX program and Spark Tank competition, and his push for innovation created a lasting legacy.

Wilson received his commission from Texas A&M University in 1981. His assignments included multiple flying tours, and he led bomber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, mobility, aeromedical evacuation and airborne command and control operations supporting operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The facility was originally used as the center for all flying training activities, supporting the needs of the Army Air Corps aviation campus. Cadets reported to this facility for clothing issue, haircuts, meals and off-duty activities. Famous aviators like Thomas B. McGuire and 17 of the Doolittle Raiders once walked the halls of what is now Wilson Hall.

Today, the newly named Wilson Hall houses administrative and conference spaces to include the Frank Lahm Conference Center, history, plans, programs and requirements and public affairs offices.

# How former water polo player inspires next generation of Air Force pilots

By Tim Gantner

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jon Somogyi cruises through Converse, Texas, turning onto Judson Lane, returning to his alma mater at Judson High School. He's meeting with Air Force Junior ROTC students to teach them what their future could hold.

Mark Hiatt, a former colleague of Somogyi, asked his friend if he could speak to students and he didn't hesitate, saying, "I always jump at the chance to give back."

Hiatt commands the AFJROTC program. The two have known each other for years after working together at the 340<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Hiatt retired from the Air Force last year as a lieutenant colonel after serving 27 years.

Somogyi's first impression of Hiatt leading the program at his alma mater is something he could see himself doing down the road.

"It's great! I hope I can continue to serve in a similar fashion after I retire," Somogyi said.

Hiatt wanted to bring in the best for his students, so he knew who to call.

"I wanted Jon to speak to the students as a way to inspire the next generation of pilots." Somogyi agrees, "It's essential to talk to young adults in the community because they are our future pilots."

The approach to speaking to teenagers about life as a pilot should be authentic and honest, Somogyi said. "I try to provide an honest look at military life without glorifying the 'good' or hiding the 'bad.' I want each person to make the best, most informed decision."

As Somogyi walks into the



PHOTOS BY TIM GANTNER

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jon Somogyi answers students' questions during a March 25 visit to the Judson High School ROTC program. The career day visit to Judson, near Converse, Texas, is an ongoing outreach effort to illustrate opportunities in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve.



An Air Force Junior ROTC student checks out a customized helmet worn by U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jon Somogyi during a March 25 visit to the Judson High School ROTC program.

class, he has his hands full. He's holding his flight suit,

helmet customized with a cobra, a 33mm A-10 shell, and a

Lasik surgery as it may prevent you from becoming a pilot.

Somogyi plays a jaw-dropping video for the class. The students look on as Somogyi flies an A-10 "Warthog" Thunderbolt II.

"So cool," a student responds.

Somogyi passes around an A-10 shell from the plane's seven-barrel Gatling gun that fires at about 65 rounds per second.

One student asks what kind of damage can an A-10 shell do and, without pause, Somogyi said, "It's always a bad day if you're an enemy of the United States and an A-10 is coming your way."

The students chuckle.

Hiatt says it means the world to have Somogyi talk to his students because it helps them see the path to what pilots do and how they operate.

"Having someone like Jon come and talk to my class is great because doors can open, and the students realize they have many more options for their futures, like joining a branch of the armed forces," Hiatt said, especially when an ROTC scholarship to college makes all the difference in a young person's life.

At the end of Somogyi's presentation, a few high-speed cadets get up and ask him more questions about life as a pilot.

Hiatt thanks his friend when it's time to wrap up: "It means a lot to have Jon visit because he comes to talk to us and expects nothing in return."

As Somogyi packs his vehicle and heads back to JBSA-Randolph, he expresses the importance of talking to young men and women.

"There might be one young person on the fence, trying to decide whether he or she can go to college or become a pilot. I hope I can be that one extra bit of motivation."

surprise.

The surprise happens to be a plaque he presents to Hiatt commemorating his time with the 340th FTG.

Before the presentation, Somogyi makes one thing clear, "As someone that attended Judson and grew up in the area, please know that if someone like me can become a pilot, then anyone can."

This piece of advice is something Somogyi firmly believes. He acknowledges he had no desire to become a pilot as a water polo player at Judson High School in the late 1990s.

"Can you wear glasses and still be a pilot?" asks a student in the back wearing an Air Force mask. "Yes, you can," Somogyi said. He also recommends holding off on