

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

APRIL 23, 2021



PHOTO BY BRITTANY WICH

The 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron and Joint Base San Antonio Fire Department firefighters brush and wash the contaminants off of firefighters in hazardous material suits during a joint training exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on April 8. The 433rd CES and JBSA Fire Department firefighters wore mission oriented protective posture gear and HAZMAT suits to protect themselves against simulated contaminants from patients and personnel.

JBSA Airmen participate in Total Force exercise

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New Exchange opens doors at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

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New robots help EOD teams do jobs safer, better, faster

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COMMENTARY

COVID-19: Avoiding burnout

By Greg Chadwick

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

The tank is running on empty.

Over the past year, many of us have had to learn new ways of working, caring for our families and trying to remain connected with others.

The COVID-19 pandemic may make you feel like you're just waiting — life on hold — and feeling frustrated that there's no end in sight. Pandemic fatigue is a very real feeling of exhaustion as a result of COVID-19's impact on our lives — from financial stress to loneliness, to the fears of getting sick. All of these play into the fatigue many of us are feeling and how we are reacting as a result.

Continual exposure to this unrelenting stress can cause us to experience burnout.

Burnout is a state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress. It occurs when you feel overwhelmed, emotionally drained, and unable to meet constant demands.

The negative effects of burnout can zap the joy out of your career, friendships, and family interactions. Much worse than ordinary fatigue, burnout makes it challenging for people to cope with stress and handle day-to-day responsibilities. People who are struggling with burnout typically experience one or more of these symptoms:

- ▶▶ Feeling physically, emotionally, and mentally depleted
- ▶▶ Irritability
- ▶▶ Difficulty with concentration
- ▶▶ General 'brain fog'
- ▶▶ Loss of motivation
- ▶▶ Disconnecting from others
- ▶▶ Frequent illnesses
- ▶▶ Not enjoying things you once loved



Exposure to emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress can cause burnout.

Burnout can zap the joy out of your career, friendships, and family interactions. Much worse than ordinary fatigue, burnout makes it challenging for people to cope with stress and handle day-to-day responsibilities.

Burnout doesn't go away on its own and, if left untreated, it can lead to serious physical and psychological illnesses like depression, heart disease, and diabetes.

Stress may be unavoidable, but burnout is preventable. At a time when it feels like so much is out of our control, it's important to recognize what you can change and control in your own life.

If working from home, it is important to create boundaries and a routine for work.

- Work-from-home burnout can occur when people have a hard time separating their work life and their home life, especially when they're working and living in one space. Tips for a better work-life balance could include:
- ▶▶ Only working during designated hours
 - ▶▶ Creating a separate work environment at home (not on the couch or in bed)
 - ▶▶ Not responding to emails

outside of your working hours (this will help prevent the feeling of constantly being "on" and connected to work)

- ▶▶ Taking a lunch break away from your computer

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential to coping with stress and preventing burnout. Participating in regular physical activity, eating a balanced diet, and getting 7-9 hours of sleep each night will help replenish your energy and emotional reserves.

Also, it's important to schedule "me time" every day. Set aside time for yourself to do things you enjoy, whether that's listening to music, pursuing a hobby, or having dedicated alone time. Hobbies can decrease stress by taking your mind off work or news about the coronavirus.

If stress and/or burnout is getting in the way of you properly caring for yourself and others, professional counseling services are

available for the workforce and their families.

Military members can contact their local mental health clinic for services.

Military OneSource is another option for the military and their families.

For more information, call (800) 342-9647 or visit militaryonesource.mil.

Civilian employees and their family members may contact the Employee Assistance Program for free, confidential counseling services at (866) 580-9078 or visit the EAP website at AFPC.af.mil/EAP.

For more information on avoiding burnout education materials contact your local Civilian Health Promotion Services team or visit USAFwellness.com.

Comprehensive information on how to cope with job stress during the Covid-19 pandemic can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at CDC.gov

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander

BRIG. GEN.

CAROLINE M. MILLER

502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director

ANGELINA CASAREZ

Editor
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

LORI BULTMAN

DAVID DEKUNDER

RACHEL KERSEY

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

TYLER MCQUISTON

SABRINA FINE

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

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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 using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q. When will the library be opened for patrons to physically browse to check out videos and/or books?

As of now, people are not allowed in the library unless they are there to check out a computer. If you are not there for a pickup, you are readily shown the exit.

If CDC guidelines are followed, and with time limitations and capacity restrictions imposed, the library could be safe and not treated like it is radioactive.

I would like to see a modification of the rules governing access to the library.

A. Thank you for your question and

interest in our JBSA Libraries!

We are just as anxious as our patrons to return to full operations which includes browsing of library materials, but we also want to ensure the library staff and valued community are safe.

There are a few things taken into thoughtful consideration when assessing the services we are able to provide. The American Library Association, or ALA, recommends against browsing at this time unless materials can be strictly controlled after being touched.

Many studies have been conducted, including research found at the Institute of Museum and Library Services website at oclc.org/realm/research.html that indicates the virus can be detected on various materials found in the library anywhere from two to six days after contact.

Due to the inability to clean porous materials without causing damage, anything touched would need to be quarantined the recommended number of days to prevent the potential spread of the virus.

Unfortunately, our JBSA Libraries are not staffed to monitor patrons as they browse in order to properly quarantine materials after they are touched.

We've also expanded the number of items that can be reserved to 50 items! Please visit jbsalibraries.org for more information and feel free to contact any

of our libraries for individualized assistance, to include possible procurement of titles not currently located in any of our JBSA Libraries.

We will continue to assess the Health Protection recommendations weekly for possible expansion of services and keep the public informed via our website and also the JBSA Libraries Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/jbsalibraries>.

Q. My question concerns plans at each installation to install electric vehicle, or EV, charging stations for public use at all JBSA bases.

The President committed to EV use among government vehicle fleets. I wonder does this commitment extends to the base working and retiree populations.

Although small, the use of EVs among retirees and employees is ever-growing and we respectfully request infrastructure expansion. All government buildings should have a number of EV charging stations proportionate to the number of employees working within. The Exchanges, commissaries, theaters, golf courses and other services could offer EV charging stations.

Not only is this a morale boost, but for businesses, it attracts additional customers. The cost can

be offset by the number of loud polluting vehicles, which our dedicated Security Forces will not miss, to zero-emission and near-silent vehicles.

The Security Forces have mentioned to me on more than a few occasions how nice it is for them when I drive through that they are not bombarded with noise and air pollution.

Ten years ago I said, "It won't be long before we see EV charging stations all around this base." I still drive my 2011 EV and still waiting for a place to plug in on base. Will JBSA installations lead the way?

A. Thank you for the question. Civil Engineering is committed to providing a resilient and energy-efficient installation and culture.

Typically, energy initiatives such as charging stations are installed during new construction of facilities, or as a commercially provided contracted pay-for-use service.

We are supportive of such initiatives, particularly when they target community gathering lots such as the Exchanges and commissaries.

To help, CE will recommend to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Defense Commissary Agency to consider this as they make capital improvements to their facilities.

JBSA members inspire others on We Care Day

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio members were out in force April 15-16 for We Care Day.

We Care Day is part of the Airman Comprehensive Fitness program that focuses on suicide awareness to assure wellness through prevention, education and intervention.

Service members were at entrances to JBSA-Lackland

April 15, with signs of support for those entering the installation. They also greeted children April 16 at schools in the Lackland Independent School District.

At JBSA-Randolph, volunteers held up signs and waved at passersby in support of We Care Day and Month of the Military Child April 16.

Participants also showed support for Child Abuse Awareness Month.



Command Master Chief Wendell Snider (right) holds a sign in support of the We Care Day event April 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The event was in support of Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse awareness month.

SABRINA FINE

JBSA First Sergeant Diamond Sharp Awards

BY JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
FIRST SERGEANTS COUNCIL

The Diamond Sharp Award is sponsored by the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council and recognizes outstanding Airmen who continually exceed the standard to meet the Air Force mission.



Vincelle

Staff Sgt. Derek Vincelle

Unit: Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Cyber Systems Division

Duty Title: Communication security officer

Staff Sgt. Derek Vincelle leads a team of four military members and civilians who manage 235 assets directly supporting the Department of Defense crypto sustainment program. He took over the program after a failed inspection and received an excellent rating two months later.

Vincelle was recently called to action when a deployed team's crypto failed while on a mission supporting a National Security Agency site. He was able to diagnose and resolve the failure over the phone, saving the mission. He is a natural leader and never hesitates to go above and beyond to help his fellow Airman.



Blumenburg

Senior Airman Alyssa A. Blumenburg

Unit: 93rd Intelligence Squadron

Duty Title: Analyst

Senior Airman Alyssa A. Blumenburg's drive and dedication have made her a subject matter expert, in addition to the team lead on multiple missions. After being tipped off on a major technology of interest, she discovered identifiers previously unknown to the intelligence community which shaped future operations. Blumenburg also dedicated 70 hours over a three-week period to provide transportation for a new Airman to and from work until the member secured a vehicle. Lastly, as the morale team lead for 60 members, she spearheaded a meal train providing two weeks of hot meals to a new active duty mother in need.

Senior Airman Anthony Ciotti-Lucas

Unit: 35th Intelligence Squadron

Duty Title: Cyber Surety Journeyman

While at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Senior Airman Anthony Ciotti-Lucas displayed superb situational awareness when he



Ciotti-Lucas

saw a woman swaying and about to collapse. Taking the initiative and rushing to offer aid, Ciotti-Lucas observed indications of a seizure and shifted her into a safer position until trained medical personnel arrived. He communicated vital information about symptoms throughout the episode, such as how far apart spasms were and descriptions of the incident before she collapsed. He exemplified Air Force Core Values through quick thinking, compassion for others and his exceptional ability to provide medical assistance without formal medical training.

Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Dixon

Unit: 59th Radiology Squadron

Duty Title: Diagnostic Imaging Technologist

Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Dixon's leadership was pivotal during the recent Extremism Stand Down, as she facilitated training for 20 personnel. Her attention to detail sought and eradicated 50 expired items from radiology's inventory. Dixon authored five funding requests worth \$1,600 to align the section with the newly published Career Field Education and Training Plan. As the diagnostic imaging floor



Dixon

manager, she led operations for 2,600 exams and 33 personnel, which includes quality control parameters for eight teleradiology bases, saving \$109,000. Finally, she captured the 2020 historian report for the radiology squadron, incorporating 32 major events during a worldwide pandemic.



Valdez

Senior Airman Desmond A. Valdez

Unit: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office

Duty Title: Shipment Distribution Technician

Senior Airman Desmond A. Valdez has made an extraordinary impact on the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office as a shipment

distribution technician. He booked 179 non-temporary storage shipments, obligating \$104,028. Additionally, Valdez deciphered 184 email inquiries and swiftly processed 32 date change requests, saving the Department of Defense \$2,752 in attempted pick-up fees. He strived for after-hours education at the University of Arizona Global Campus, completing six credit hours, while fulfilling unit honor guard duties.



Davis-Spriggs

Spc. 4 Honesty Davis-Spriggs (U.S. Space Force)

Unit: 53rd Intelligence Squadron

Duty Title: Windows & Infrastructure Technician

Spc. 4 Honesty N. Davis-Spriggs distinguished herself by leading the 53rd Intelligence Squadron Safety Program, reviving a three-year-old obsolete program and supported more than 300 members during Winter Storm Uri. She also devoted time to off-duty education, earning 18 credits towards a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. As a result, Davis led training for a 10-member work center on server application security. Davis also served as a flight physical training leader, mock-testing 10 Airman and leading 12 flight workout sessions.

SMA pushes for vaccinations as Army aims for return to normalcy

By Devon L. Suits

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

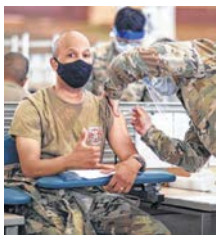
As the Army strives to get back to normal operations this year, increasing the number of vaccinated personnel will enable readiness and expedite the reopening process, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston April 8.

Army senior leaders hope to have 80% of the force vaccinated before the end of June, as the service continues to distribute an average of 70,000 vaccinations per week, Grinston said during a live-streamed event on COVID-19.

Grinston and Dr. Steven Cersovsky, deputy director of the Army Public Health Center, engaged in an open conversation with three Soldiers about their decision to whether or not be vaccinated. The discussion provided leaders an opportunity to further explain the vaccination process, clarify any misconceptions, and share their thoughts on how the vaccine will improve the force.

"If we were to get called, we have to be healthy and ready to protect our nation," Grinston said. "If we have a whole bunch of people on restrictive movement, it puts a limit on how ready we are as an Army."

The virus is not impacting the Army's overall readiness level, Grinston emphasized. However, virus-related movement restrictions connected to the permanent change of station process or mission requirements can create a series of challenges as the Army moves toward a



ANGELO MEJIA

Lt. Col. John Gwinn, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, receives the COVID-19 vaccine at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in January.

semi-normal operating state.

"We need to help our nation get through this," said Grinston, adding that the Army is closely monitoring and supporting COVID-19 efforts around the nation.

The Army recently deployed three more 140-person teams to support community vaccination centers in Maryland, Tennessee and Wisconsin, where they'll provide up to 3,000 vaccinations a day at each site, according to a news release from U.S. Army North.

Soldiers and other military personnel have already helped administer nearly 2 million vaccines in at least 16 states and one U.S. territory, as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency vaccination support effort.

One installation mentioned during the discussion was Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It recently reserved one of its 14 fitness centers for use by vaccinated personnel in concert with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, said Col. Joseph Buccino, public affairs officer for the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The commander has also lifted restrictions on the installation's 21 dining facilities, allowing vaccinated personnel the option to dine in. Individuals must present an approved COVID-19 vaccination record card before entering the fitness center or sitting down to eat at a DFAC.

Recent reporting about this change has sparked some controversy, leading some Soldiers to question if this is the Army's ongoing approach to force people to get vaccinated. Army senior leaders are adamant that this is not the case, Grinston said.

"We are excited to have vaccinated a sufficient portion of our population that we are now able to loosen some COVID-19 restrictions," Buccino said. "For us, this is about readiness. Reopening some of our facilities allows us to gain readiness and allows our Soldiers to resume critical social interaction."

For more than a year, the installation's gyms have operated at 50% capacity with no cardio equipment usage, Buccino said. The decision to open one facility for vaccinated personnel is intended to provide a safe place for members to conduct physical fitness activities and support individuals who are hesitant to exercise in a COVID environment.

"The other 13 gyms remain open with occupancy and some COVID activity restrictions to Soldiers and dependents no matter their vaccination status," he added.

Further, Fort Bragg dining facilities and all

VACCINE continues on 14

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Dagger Forge III trains troops to become elite Signals Intelligence Lethal Soldiers

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter descended before landing in a remote area as several troops got out and made sure the perimeter was safe from the enemy they were about to engage in.

As they quickly got off the helicopter, the troops went to the ground and drew their weapons, just in case the enemy might appear. After securing the area, the helicopter took off.

The force, consisting of eight members, then proceeded to set up equipment, communicating with another team of troops in the field.

The troops then spread out into the wooded area to find the enemy. Their mission: gather intelligence on the enemy, locate and capture them and seize any intelligence equipment and cache of weapons they may have.

This scene was part of a signals intelligence field training event known as Dagger Forge III, conducted April 5-9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis by the 717th Military Intelligence Battalion, part of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Dagger Forge III trained 40 active duty members, who underwent physical, technical and tactical training to become Signals Intelligence Lethal Soldiers, the Army's force of intelligence gathering troops.

"This event trains them to be well-rounded and tactical SIGINT collectors," said Lt. Col. Steve Burroughs, 717th MIB commander. "It enables them to be certified as SIGINT Lethal



PHOTOS BY TRISTIN ENGLISH

Dagger Forge III trained 40 active duty members, who underwent physical, technical and tactical training to become Signals Intelligence Lethal Soldiers, the Army's force of intelligence gathering troops. This signals intelligence field training event was conducted April 5-9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.



Trainees set up equipment to communicate with another team of troops in the field.

Soldiers and they can do any mission we expect of our tactical ground SIGINT collectors, whether it be Afghanistan or anywhere worldwide."

Burroughs said trainees' physical endurance is tested by undergoing the Army Combat Fitness Test to ensure they are combat fit and ready for any scenario they will encounter in battle. Additionally, the servicemembers ruck march a total of 47 miles with their full kit and gear.

The trainees undergo battle drills where they learn warrior tasks, including how to fight if they are compromised with the intent of using their signals intelligence, or SIGINT, equipment to find and fix the enemy, how to survive in the field, medical training and technical SIGINT training. The trainees are then tested on their

technical expertise and knowledge.

To complete their training, service members participate in a simulated exercise in which they are placed in four teams consisting of six to eight members, who are flown by helicopter to a remote location where they must find and engage an enemy force of 20 fighters in the field. Each of the teams are briefed on the enemy and their positions, with each team developing their own plan on how they will go about capturing the enemy, seizing the enemy's intelligence equipment and weapons cache.

Dagger Forge III was a joint exercise consisting of active duty members from the Army, Coast Guard and Marines.

"The unique advantage of having it being multi-component as well as joint

services is that's how we fight in combat," Burroughs said. "We're never going to do anything alone any more so having the Marines with us, who are a significant combat force for the ground as well as the Coast Guard, they are taking on more and more signals intelligence missions to defend our nation across the globe. So, having that team together helps us to fight as a team of teams to win our nation's wars."

Spc. Charity Mack, 717th MIB SIGINT team lead, said the training she underwent during Dagger Forge III was challenging, including when she had to conduct a briefing for commanders in planning and executing a simulated field exercise.

"It was very challenging but very informative," Mack said. "It helps us with retaining our information from what we've learned and also learning how to create a mission and learning how our different levels operate in order to carry out or execute the missions."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Tristan Pilley, Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas intelligence specialist, said he viewed the training as an opportunity to work with his SIGINT counterparts in the Army.

"It's been a great experience working with these guys and trading tradecraft, seeing how I can help and what new stuff I can learn about how the Army conducts business," Pilley said.

The Dagger Forge training event, which started in 2020, is conducted three times a year with the next training exercise scheduled for September.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston observes Denim Day to support SAAPM

By Sgt. 1st Class Jaime E. Chavez Ozuna

5TH CADET COMMAND SEXUAL
ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR

The Denim Day story began as an international movement originating in Italy in 1992 and was organized as a response to the Italian Supreme Court's decision in which a rape conviction was overturned.

An 18-year old girl was raped by the 45-year old driving instructor who was taking her to her very first driving lesson. He took her to an isolated road, pulled her out of the car, removed her jeans and forcefully raped her.

She reported the rape and the perpetrator was arrested and prosecuted. He was then convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. Years later, he appealed the conviction claiming that they had consensual sex.

The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction and the perpetrator was released. A statement from the Court argued that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to help him remove



COURTESY GRAPHIC

them, and by removing the jeans it was not rape but consensual sex. This became known throughout Italy as the "jeans alibi."

This court decision sparked protests and created an international uproar. As a

symbolic gesture, protestors wore jeans in front of the steps of courts, including the Italian Supreme Court, to show solidarity with the victim.

Since then, what started as a local campaign to bring awareness to victim-blaming

and destructive myths that surround sexual violence grew into a movement.

As the longest-running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history, Denim Day asks community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.

This year, Denim Day is held April 28, and in support of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, or SAAPM, activities, Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, signed an official authorization March 3 allowing all military personnel under her command to participate in this event.

As the senior commander for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, Richardson is leading by example reaffirming the Army's commitment to combat and

eliminate sexual assault across our force and our community.

In her message to the force, the general also encourages leaders throughout her organization to talk to their Soldiers about efforts such as "Not in My Squad" and how to treat all members of the team with dignity and respect.

Participation in the observance is encouraged, as it considered a sign of commitment to a positive climate of dignity and respect and demonstration of support of sexual assault victims and survivors.

Denim Day is a great opportunity to show support and commitment to awareness and prevention of sexual assault. This observance also aligns with Army's theme for SAAPM, which is "Building Cohesive Teams through Character, Trust, and Resilience. Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission."

Hence, on April 28, remember that wearing denim is not just a fashion statement, but a sign of commitment, support and empathy.

Temporary waivers end for state IDs, vehicle titles, registrations

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As of April 15, Security Forces at all Joint Base San Antonio locations are enforcing all expired vehicle registrations, driver licenses and state identification cards.

This is in keeping with Texas state law, coinciding with the end of temporary waivers for vehicle registration and driver licenses passed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is no grace period after the conclusion of the statewide waiver and police can start ticketing motorists operating a vehicle without a current registration sticker or current registration receipt. This will also

include those individuals with an expired driver's license or state identification.

For more information, check the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles website at <https://www.txdmv.gov/covid-19>. Before renewing registration, Texans will need to obtain a passing vehicle inspection at the state vehicle inspection station of their choice, unless their vehicle is exempt from inspection requirements.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles does not issue driver licenses or state ID cards.

Texans should contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/> for these services.

Driver license,
vehicle registration
waivers to end April 14



TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Police can now start ticketing motorists operating a vehicle without a current registration sticker or current registration receipt. This will also include expired driver's licenses or state IDs.

BAMC sets temporary visitation policy

BY BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In support of patients and families, Brooke Army Medical Center is carefully modifying its visitation policy, as the health and safety of patients, visitors, staff and the community remains a top priority.

As of April 9, BAMC will only allow a maximum of two visitors per day into the facility from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., except for situations as indicated below:

- » Pediatric outpatients: 1 adult caregiver (no additional children other than the patient)
- » Pediatric & Neonatal ICU inpatients: 2 visitors
- » Cognitively impaired adults (inpatient and outpatient): 1 primary caregiver
- » All inpatients at end-of-life: 2 visitors at a given time in the room, no limit to the number of visitors in a 24-hour period



JASON W EDWARDS

As of April 9, BAMC will only allow a maximum of two visitors per day into the facility from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., except in specified situations.

- » Labor and Delivery (including postpartum): 1 primary support person
 - » Pediatric surgery patients (Same Day Surgery and Planned Admissions): 2 escorts permitted
 - » Adult ambulatory/same day surgeries: 1 escort permitted
- until discharge.
- » Surgery with planned admission: 1 escort may remain in the building until the surgeon completes the case and discusses it with him/her. (Patient must agree to the sharing of the information with the escort/family member)

Ward visitation as dictated by Hospital Policy

- » Emergency Department: 1 visitor
- » All non-COVID-19 inpatients (not listed above): 2 visitors per day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- » All COVID-19 inpatients (not listed above): No visitation unless noted above exceptions met

For questions/concerns, ask a member of the patient's healthcare team.

For all patients and visitors:

- » No more than 2 visitors per room at a given time (this includes all non-COVID-19 inpatient areas and double occupancy patient rooms)
- » Everyone entering the facility will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19.
- » Visitors who are sick will not be permitted to enter.
- » Visitors may be re-screened by BAMC personnel at their

discretion.

- » Everyone must wear a face-covering according to current guidance.
- » Everyone should practice social distancing measures as appropriate.
- » Patients are encouraged to remain closely connected to their loved ones through virtual means including Skype, FaceTime, Zoom and phone.
- » Waiting areas remain closed to promote social distancing

BAMC officials ask friends, family and visitors to be careful not to impede healthcare, display HIPAA information, or include patients or staff who have not consented to be filmed/photographed.

This guidance is subject to change based on new or additional information.

For updates and resources, visit the BAMC COVID-19 website at <https://www.bamc.health.mil/articles/covid19/>.

Following staff talks, U.S., Salvadoran armies renew training opportunities in Central America

By Donald Sparks

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South, on behalf of the Army's chief of staff, conducted virtual staff talks with the Salvadoran Army April 7 to promote readiness-focused bilateral efforts that enhance interoperability, contribute to the readiness of the total force, and improve U.S. Army and partner nation land forces capabilities, to address current and future strategic, operational and tactical security challenges.

During the 14th edition of the U.S.-El Salvador Staff Talks in 2019, both commanders signed memorandums of understanding outlining agreed-to actions, or ATAs, in which both armies would train together to strengthen the knowledge to combat transnational threats such as drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal trafficking of people and weapons, among others. However, many of the activities and training initiatives in 2020 were held virtually or canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

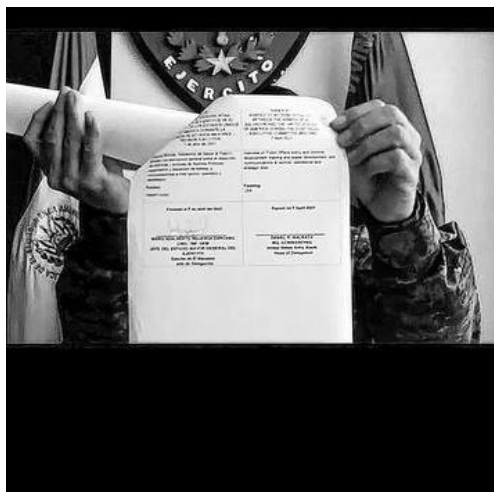
"Our two armies have stood the test of time. We fought alongside each other in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now, we fight alongside each other to counter the transnational threats affecting our region," said Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Walrath, Army South commanding general. "With perseverance and a common vision, we forged forward and withstood adversities. We are, indeed, brothers in arms and we share the sacred duty of ensuring for the common defense of our nations."

During the staff talks, the two commanders reviewed 15 ATAs, which covered a wide range of professional exchanges designed to improve capabilities and the working relationship between the two armies.

Of note this year is the agreement between Army South and El Salvador with two other Central American armies in the region — Guatemala and Honduras, to conduct a tri-border exercise in 2022 entitled CENTAM GUARDIAN, which focuses on strengthening the hemispheric cooperation and collaboration between national/regional civilian and security/military entities.

According to Maj. Ruben Ramos, Central America desk officer, Army South Security Cooperation Division, the exercise will address threats and illicit activities at the tri-border area. The exercise also allows El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to enhance their interoperability, domain awareness, and counter-threat capabilities.

"The three countries have common threats, and we believe a regional approach will strengthen their partnerships and regional stability and security," Ramos said. "CENTAM GUARDIAN lays down a solid foundation of training activities that enhance our ability to partner with the Salvadoran Army and



Col. Mario Adalberto Figueroa Cárcamo (left), Salvadoran Army chief of staff, shows his signed copy during virtual talks of the agreed-to-actions document between the U.S. and Salvadoran armies April 7 outlining future training commitments and professional exchanges between the two armies.



TIMOTHY HUGHES

its neighboring armies."

Walrath emphasized Army South, as strategic partners, must continue to show a strong and unified front to assist El Salvador in confronting these threats to regional security.

"The staff talks provide us with a great venue to better understand each other, develop common goals, and present a common vision," Walrath said. "Together, we have made important and sustained contributions to regional security, while also providing an example to other nations of how successful partnerships between strong democratic nations are formed."

This year's meeting marks the 15th time the two armies have come together to reaffirm their regional partnership, which has become beneficial not only to El Salvador and the United States but to the rest of the region as well.

"It's an honor for the Salvadoran Army to take part in these staff talks and I want to express our two armies relationship is getting better and stronger because we have a common goal combatting threats to the Americas," said Col. Mario Adalberto Figueroa Cárcamo, Salvadoran Army chief of staff.

Figueroa also highlighted the ATAs allow the Salvadoran Army to collaborate and participate with the U.S. Army and other armies in the region to jointly counter illicit activities that not only impact his nation but other nations throughout

the Western Hemisphere.

Army South also conducts the Central American Working Group — a regional event with the armies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

New Exchange shopping center opens doors at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

BY 502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After years of planning and construction, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service opened its new Exchange shopping center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 15.

The new 210,000-square-foot Exchange center, located on Funston Road, which includes the main exchange, held a limited-size ribbon-cutting opening.

Cutting the ribbon on the shopping center were Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; Jason Rosenberg, Exchange chief operating officer; Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, Exchange senior enlisted advisor; Jesse Martinez, Exchange Central Region senior vice president; Antonio Porter, Exchange Central Region vice president; Eddie Devlin, Exchange general manager; and Tammar Tracey, Exchange store manager.

"What an awesome day," Miller said. "I was an Air Force brat and now, having served 28 years, the Exchanges have always felt like home. This Exchange is the most beautiful one I've ever seen in all my years. It's just absolutely gorgeous. To everyone that made this happen, thank you."

The new \$54 million Exchange shopping center replaces the former Exchange building, located at Henry Allen and Winfield Scott roads, which was built in 1971 and last renovated in 2010.

The old Exchange center will be demolished to make room for an additional 800 parking spaces for the new Exchange shopping center.

The shopping center is a



TRISTIN ENGLISH

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, speaks to attendees at the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the new 210,000-square-foot Exchange center located on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston April 15.

joint venture among the Exchange, the Air Force and Army Medical Command, with the Exchange — not taxpayers — funding most of the project.

"The Exchange is family serving family, and this modern store allows the Exchange to serve our JBSA-Fort Sam Houston family even better than before," Osby said. "This store is a symbol of our dedication to meeting the needs of all who call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston home."

Eight restaurants are housed in the food court and the mall

area consists of seven specialty stores, a beauty shop, barbershop, pharmacy, dental clinic and optical and optometry stores. The optical and optometry stores, which moved from their location at the former commissary building, opened March 29. The pharmacy opened for operations Feb. 1, followed by the dental clinic March 9.

The new Exchange shopping center will also have energy-efficient upgrades, including LED lighting and skylights throughout the

building and will provide jobs for approximately 500 employees, permanent and temporary.

Customers and employees at the new Exchange are expected to follow COVID-19 guidelines, including wearing masks and social distancing. Social distancing decals are located on floors where lines form and there are clear shields at points of sale and at cash registers. Additionally, sanitation stations are available at the entrance of the Exchange and throughout the building.

"This store is beautiful and by far the biggest one I've ever seen," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Dever, who is assigned to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"There's a huge retirement community here so this is going to be great for them. And it's for sure a morale booster for the troops stationed here. A definite taste of home."

Editor's note: Information for this article was provided by David DeKunder, 502nd ABW Public Affairs; and Chris Ward, AAFES Public Affairs

LACKLAND

New robots help EOD teams do jobs safer, better, faster

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The recent arrival of a new set of explosive ordnance disposal robots at the 902nd Civil Engineering Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is enabling Air Force and Space Force EOD teams to do their jobs safer, better and faster.

Each EOD unit throughout the Air Force and Space Force will receive three to five robots. These machines will enable them to detect, confirm, identify and dispose of unexploded explosive ordnance and other hazards from a safe distance.

The Man Transportable Robotic System-Increment II, or MTSR II, is replacing the Air Force Medium Sized Robot, or AFMSR, which has been in use for a decade.

"The new system is more user-friendly and intuitive, the optics are clearer and offer a bigger field of view," said Master Sgt. Justin Frewin, equipment program manager for the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at JBSA-Lackland. "Additionally, longer battery life mitigates the potential for prolonged mission interruptions. It's also nearly 100 pounds lighter than the AFMSR."

Training on the new units began at JBSA-Lackland at the 902nd CES Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit March 8-12, where Airmen and Guardians learned to utilize the new technology.

Attendees were instructed on basic operation of the system — unpacking and inventory, set up, how to properly operate it via radio and fiber, and maintenance and cleaning of the robot. The class covered driving, manipulation, and using the cameras on MTSR II.

"We got to do some field testing and see how it handles hurdles and obstacles," said Senior Airman Nicholas Wake, EOD team member. "We got to drive it around and see how it climbs stairs, opens doors, see how high up it



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shayne Mooney, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, operates the Man Transportable Robotic Systems, MTSR II, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on April 14.

can reach, and test the weight of things it can pick up. They can do very fine movements, but are rugged enough to withstand being outdoors and going over rocks."

Wake is confident the robot will deliver. He said it has exactly the sort of capabilities they need from a medium-sized robot.

"It's really a step above everything we've had in the past," he said. "When it comes to weaknesses, there aren't many. It's a pretty good robot."

Several EOD members said the older AFMSR robots left a lot to be desired.



The MTSR II travels down a staircase during training exercises at JBSA-Lackland.

contracted in September 2017.

"Approximately 1,700 Total Force EOD Airmen will use this family of robots," Frewin said.

"These robot assets will deploy to war zones," he said. "But it will not be uncommon to see EOD flights utilize these robots during home station training and emergency response operations within the continental United States as the EOD flight dictates operational necessity."

Emergency responses are where remote operations are most important, and are where the combined capabilities of the robots, technicians, and uniquely skilled civil engineers can save lives.

"EOD members are tasked to eliminate or mitigate explosive hazards and terrorist or criminal devices, to include missions outside the base boundary or base security zone, to enable greater freedom of maneuver for air or surface operations," Frewin said. "EOD provides a critical enabling capability in the form of collection and exploitation of weapons and explosive material. This capability is essential for operational success during military operations."

The MTSR II was developed in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, by the U.S. Army Product Manager Robotic and Autonomous Systems.

PHOTOS BY JASON WILKINSON

"The cameras and radio on the old AFMSR are really bad," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas McManus, JBSA-Lackland EOD noncommissioned officer in charge of operations.

"We're talking toggle switches that control arms and remote control systems from before my time," added Tech. Sgt. Anthony Clark, JBSA-Lackland EOD section chief. "The new robot gives us capabilities to reach distances that no one thought was possible."

The Air Force acquired 333 of the medium-sized robots, which were approved conceptually in May 2013 and

JBSA Airmen participate in Total Force exercise

By Senior Airman Brittany Wich

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron trained on responding to a chemical agent exposure situation with unregulated patient movement and familiarization with decontamination procedures at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 8.

The 433rd AES collaborated with the 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron, JBSA Fire Department and the 9th AES, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania, to accomplish the training.

The exercise began when the aeromedical evacuation operations team received a simulated chemical agent alert from Biggs Army Airfield at Fort Bliss, Texas, in need of medical assistance from the 433rd AES. The team, comprised of administration, communications and logistics within the 433rd AES, provides coordination and ground support for aeromedical evacuation teams.

According to Maj. Eddie O'Connell, 433rd AES director of operations, a C-130J Hercules aircraft assigned to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, flew into JBSA-Lackland. He said the flight medical crew was scheduled to fly to Biggs Army Airfield and bring back an unknown amount of contaminated patients while providing in-flight medical care in mission-oriented protective posture gear.

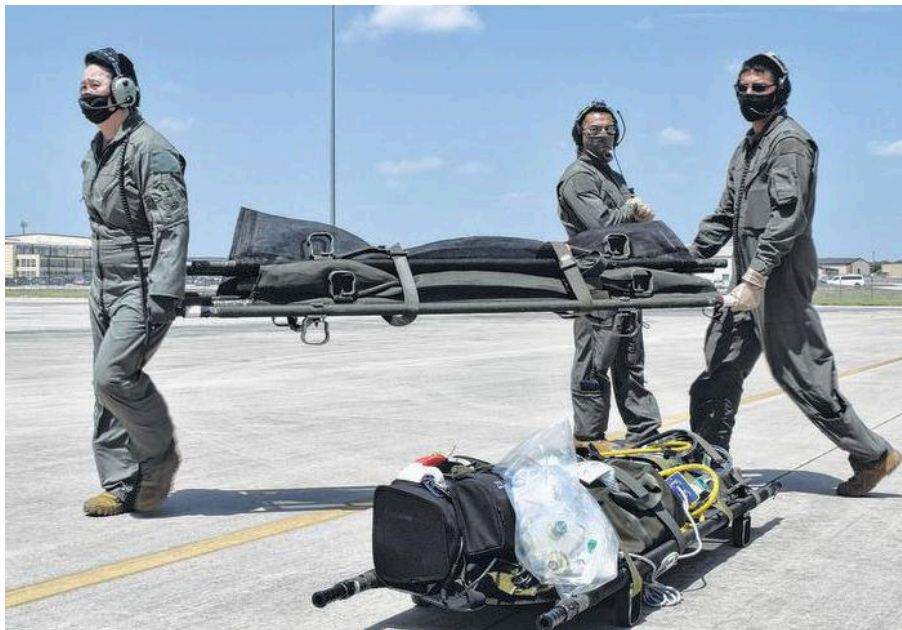
Among the flight crew was Capt. Damian Gonzalez, 9th AES flight nurse.

"The reason the 9th participated with the 433rd was to integrate different crews, learn from each other and also bring that experience back to Pittsburgh," Gonzalez said.

Due to the presence of birds on the runway, the JBSA bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard team's management protocols grounded aircraft to maintain the overall safety of the personnel.

Despite the setback, the JBSA Fire Department and 433rd CES continued, assembling a decontamination line and simulating the protocols for offloading patients and the flight crew.

The decontamination line included the simulated chemical agent-exposed crew and patients moving through multiple cleaning stations where firefighters in hazardous material suits



The 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron reserve citizen Airmen load medical equipment on a C-130 J Hercules during a joint training exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 8.

brushed contaminate away. In the last station, the firefighter would medically evaluate the patient then provide direction. Senior Airman Scott Moran, 433rd CES firefighter, was one of the members in the HAZMAT suits.

"The highlight of the exercise was just to get in the HAZMAT suits," he said. "We don't really do it that often, to get in there, test it out and remember what it feels like. We had such a nice day to do it. It was really good."

O'Connell said that despite the obstacles, the training accomplished decontamination procedures and would rate the exercise an eight out of ten. He said the 433rd AES, the 433rd CES and the JBSA Fire Department are continuing their relationship with planning future training dates on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense scenarios.

"All in all, I think we learned a lot," O'Connell said. "One of the big positives out of this is that we built a really strong relationship, I hope, with the JBSA Fire Department, reserve fire department and our emergency management folks at the wing."



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

Tech Sgt. Alison Espinoza, 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight medical technician, and Capt. Damian Gonzalez, 9th AES flight nurse, assist Senior Airman Cassandra Csanyi, 433rd AES flight medical technician, in putting on her gloves during a joint training exercise at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 8. The flight crew wore mission oriented protective posture gear to simulate providing care to chemical agent-contaminated patients.

Total Force delivers excellence at BMT

By Joe Gangemi

37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The concept of Total Force Integration is simple — active duty, Reserve, and National Guard Airmen work together in support of the Air Force mission.

The 433rd Training Squadron is Total Force in action. The squadron, under the 340th Flying Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, is comprised of Total Force Airmen who accomplish the basic military training mission — motivate, train and inspire the next generation of Airmen and Guardians with the foundation to deliver 21st Century Airpower.

When COVID-19 threatened to stop the basic military training pipeline in 2020, it was the 433rd TRS that came to the rescue. The 737th Training Group needed an additional line squadron to make their plan of “one squadron, same week of training” concept work. The 433rd TRS became that additional squadron.

“Every MTI assigned to the



SARAYUTH PINTHONG

A Military Training Instructor presents the Airman's coin during graduation at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on March 18. The coin signifies the transition from trainee to Airman. The trainees were assigned to the 433rd Training Squadron during their basic military training.

433rd Training Squadron chooses to be here. The Reserve does not have a Developmental Special Duties program. We go out and recruit for these positions,” said Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Strange, 433rd TRS superintendent. “One of our proudest achievements has been sharing developmental and instructional experiences between active duty, Reserve

and National Guard MTIs. We are family.”

Since standing back up in May 2020 and pushing flights independently, the squadron encountered operations and practices that were new or recently implemented in response to COVID.

One of the biggest changes was in the physical training program. Cardio Interval

Training, or CIT, was designed to strengthen the lower extremities before adding the run portion of physical training.

CIT was actually introduced before COVID, but its use was accelerated when leadership realized it was the perfect balance between safety measures and physical training. The program has lowered the number of bone density issues while maintaining a 98% final PT assessment pass rate for BMT trainees. CIT is a whole body workout along with cardiovascular benefits.

Other changes were made to drill to ensure adequate physical separation between trainees, and bringing the Army Air Force Exchange Services to the squadron to give trainees the opportunity to buy toiletries and personal items.

Reserve MTIs help Airman and Guardian trainees understand the broader Total Force picture.

“Trainees are generally aware that things are different, but this is ‘the norm’ for them. They haven’t experienced anything else so they’ve done fine,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Erard, 433rd

TRS commander. “Our MTIs have also adapted and excelled, in spite of countless challenges they encountered.”

Along with the challenges of COVID the 433rd TRS also faced adversity during Winter Storm Uri, which brought record low temperatures, historic snowfall and power outages to the area.

“All members of the 433rd TRS active-duty and Reserve rose up to take on the challenge to continue to train, inspire and motivate its trainees,” said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Campbell, 433rd TRS Military Training Instructor. “Even though the base was comprised of mission-essential personnel and wanted to limit the number of individuals transiting to and from the base, this did not stop the course of actions and the volunteers from continuing the BMT mission.”

Along with eight other training squadrons that comprise the 737th Training Group, the efforts of the 433rd TRS have directly contributed to the 96% graduation success rate within Basic Military Training amid a worldwide pandemic.

VACCINE

From page 5

on-post dining locations have been restricted to grab-and-go only, Buccino said.

“Understanding the mental health and teambuilding benefits of ‘breaking bread together,’ we recently authorized in-person dining, up to 50% capacity, for those who are vaccine complete,” he added. “This modification to our COVID dining measures does not prevent non-vaccine complete Soldiers from using the DFACs or any other food services, as they can continue to use the grab-and-go option.”

Both Fort Bragg and Army senior leaders emphasized that

the vaccination process is entirely voluntary.

“None of our efforts to reopen facilities are designed to punish those who choose to opt-out of the vaccination,” Buccino said. “It is important to bring a sense of normalcy back to our Soldiers for their mental, physical, and personal wellbeing. The research and studies support the efficacy of the vaccine, and we want to build trust in the vaccine while providing our community a safe place to work and live.”

The recent changes at Fort Bragg coincide with Grinston's belief that Soldiers should receive some form of advantage for getting vaccinated. If vaccinated personnel still have to wear a mask and stay 6 feet

apart while working out, what would be the point, he asked.

According to the CDC's travel guidelines, vaccinated personnel also receive an advantage while traveling in the U.S., Cersovsky said.

Vaccine-complete personnel no longer need to complete pre- or post-travel COVID-19 testing or quarantine, he added. Individuals will still need to wear a mask when utilizing public transportation methods, as they will be around other people who are not fully vaccinated.

For international travel, the CDC also no longer recommends any pre-travel testing or quarantines unless the destination country has a contradictory requirement.

Upon return to the U.S., the CDC recommends all personnel to get tested, regardless of their vaccination status.

The lack of human interaction brought on by the virus is also a concern, Grinston said. The inability to see a person's physical reaction because they are wearing a mask can limit the flow of communication. As Soldiers and leaders go to and from a location, they miss an opportunity to stay socially connected.

“I’m worried about our behavioral health. One way to get out of this is we have to get the vaccine so that we can start interacting like we used to,” he added.

Grinston is also concerned for all personnel serving overseas.

Their inability to travel due to local restrictions has impacted their ability to connect with family.

Overall, it is essential for all personnel to get vaccinated, not just for themselves or their immediate family, but for the 10-20 other people they happen to see daily, Grinston added.

“I’m a healthy male with no pre-existing conditions,” he said. “But I think about those others that I would hurt because I shared the virus. And I think that’s one of those personal reasons why I think it is important for us to get vaccinated.”

“Sometimes it’s not about my health — it is about the health of others that may not even know that I am infected.”

AFCEC construction enhances JBSA capabilities, quality of life

By Mila Cisneros

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION
AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center is optimizing mission and training capabilities and improving quality of life at Joint Base San Antonio through its multi-year construction effort.

The projects are a massive \$388 million undertaking at three primary locations — JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph. It includes seven active \$30 million new military construction projects and five \$78 million renovation projects currently in design to improve the resiliency and readiness of the force.

"AFCEC, a primary subordinate unit of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, provides centralized design and construction solutions for the Air Force and Space Force enterprise and ensures installations have what they need to operate," said Col. Dave Norton, deputy director of AFCEC's Facility Engineering Directorate. "Resilient infrastructure is critical to our ability to conduct the missions our nation asks of us, with AFCEC-led investment providing the right-sized infrastructure necessary to effectively meet mission objectives."

AFCEC's mission is to provide centralized design and infrastructure solutions essential to full operational capability at installations. The AFCEC-managed projects are part of the military construction and facility sustainment, restoration and modernization programs, an effort jointly executed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland

Construction of the Basic Military Training West Campus is underway at JBSA-Lackland. The effort began in 2019 and involves a new classroom and dining facility, and two recruit dormitories. The west campus will strengthen the Air Force's capacity to conduct training missions more efficiently at the Air Force's primary basic training location for enlisted recruits known as the "Gateway to the Air Force."

"It is a multifaceted construction designed to update and replace decentralized housing and training infrastructure with modern living and educational facilities," said Shannon Best, AFCEC's design and construction manager.

Each of the two, 280,550-square-foot dormitories will accommodate up to 1,248

trainees once complete. The \$226 million investment will offer sleeping quarters, showers and restrooms, along with an instructional dayroom and instructor offices. The three BMT projects are slated for completion by late 2022.

A new telephone maintenance facility is another \$3 million MILCON investment at the installation. The 7,868 square-foot building will offer more efficiency for the 502nd Communications Squadron.

"The squadron's maintenance shops are displaced at the base due to the construction of the BMT West Campus Complex. The new one-story building will provide centralized space for storing and testing communications equipment," Best said, and will include storage and administrative space as well as supporting infrastructure.

The 502nd CS keeps JBSA



connected. It is the largest communications squadron in the Air Force handling various communication problems such as network concerns, phone issues and communications systems challenges.

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the construction of a new 13,500-square-foot fire station is nearly complete. Phase one began in 2015 followed by phase two in 2019. Upon completion, the new station will significantly improve the firefighting mission at the base.

"The base needed new infrastructure to be ready to assist and serve 30 facilities at the Brooke Army Medical Center Complex," Best said.

The 11-story Brooke Army Medical Center, home to the Center for the Intrepid and Warriors in Transition, is the

U.S. Army's primary medical institution taking care of wounded service members.

The \$11.5 million investment is expected to considerably reduce response time to emergency calls. The new station will provide living quarters, administrative and training areas, and room for two fire trucks.

Other JBSA-Fort Sam Houston projects include a new entry control point facility and a military working dog kennel complex.

The \$3.8 million Winans Road entry control point will increase installation security and ensure a safer working environment for the security forces personnel.

The construction of a \$5.6 million MWD complex will enhance the base security and explosives and narcotics detection missions. The

AFCEC continues on 16

Local Air Force wings forge bond through partnerships

By Samantha Mathison
960TH CYBERSPACE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commanders of the 433rd Airlift Wing and the 960th Cyberspace Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland made the wings' partnership official when they signed a formal memorandum of understanding March 31.

Teams from each wing spent almost a year working together documenting the required mission support services to optimize business processes and the manpower needed to support Air Force Reserve policies.

"Building a strong relationship with the 433rd AW was one of my first tasks when I arrived," said Col. Rick Erredge, 960th CW commander. "It is extremely important to find ways to work together on setting and understanding expectations for the success of both wings."

The Air Force Reserve



SAMANTHA MATHISON

Col. Terry McClain (left), 433rd Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Rick Erredge (right), 960th Cyberspace Wing commander, sign copies of the 433rd AW and 960th CW Memorandum of Understanding on April 6 at JBSA-Lackland.

designates a lead wing when more than one wing is located at the same installation.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the 433rd AW is the lead wing responsible for providing

military and travel pay services, force support functions, deployment processing, and information technology, among other programs.

"I've been the supported

commander before, so I know how important it is to document the required services and programs from the supporting wing," said Col. Terry McClain, 433rd AW commander. "In the end, it's all about making sure we take care of the Airmen in both wings."

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command applied manpower standards to these functions to determine the manpower needed to support the Reservist population at JBSA-Lackland.

The two wings worked closely together when COVID-19 forced the organizations to move functions to virtual platforms and increased the need for collaboration. An example is how the two wings partnered on creating a professional development committee to offer classes virtually to both wings' members.

"The combined effort of both wings while working together to overcome the barriers

presented due to the current pandemic was just awesome to witness," said Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum, former 433rd AW command chief. "The leadership team made it a point to assist our members by creating ways to ensure they could achieve their professional goals in this obviously stressful environment. The success of our members highlights the can-do attitude of our Reserve Citizen Airmen."

According to Erredge, the signing of the memorandum of understanding represents a significant milestone in the formal relationship between the two wings and memorializes what services are provided and how the two wings will interact going forward.

"This is a huge step in providing Airmen of both wings with documented expectations that take the burden of the relationship off of our Airmen and put it on to the institution," Erredge said.

AFCEC

From page 15

complex will provide kennel and support facilities, an obedience area, a break room and other supporting infrastructure.

In addition to new construction efforts, more than 10 renovation and repair projects are currently or will soon be underway at the installation to include four barracks, Headquarters Army North administration areas and the Army Band building.

Joint Base San Antonio Infrastructure

In addition to MILCON, the Air Force is modernizing JBSA's existing infrastructure to assure lethality, readiness and Airmen resilience.

"The FSRM program aims to

repair and renovate facilities so they meet full mission capabilities and provide safe and comfortable living and work environments," said J.D. Buchholtz, AFCEC project manager.

The initiative will keep the base ready to fight and improve the quality of life for Airmen. The work includes complete renovation and repairs of administrative, data center buildings and recruit housing.

"All FSRM projects are in the design and planning stage at the moment," Buchholtz said. "We're working with partners to deliver modern design solutions in order for each facility to meet the unique need necessary for mission success."

The \$78 million FSRM initiative, a partnership between AFCEC and JBSA, includes work scheduled for JBSA-Lackland and

JBSA-Randolph. Renovation of the buildings is expected to start in the next few years.

The Air Force's BMT program plans to add two new dormitories, an additional classroom and dining facility, and the Airmen's Chapel by 2025.

"These projects, part of the MILCON program, are in the design phase and we are working on awarding some of them for execution in 2021," Best said.

Other key projects will include a child development center at each primary location across JBSA, an air traffic control tower and aquatics tank facilities at JBSA-Lackland. The Air Force is also planning to add aircraft maintenance and training facilities to house the T-7A Red Hawk Aircraft, as part of the T-X program at JBSA-Randolph.



RANDOLPH

Tough Conversations: Addressing extremism in the ranks

By Dreshawn Murray

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph partook in the biweekly “Tough Conversations” roundtable hosted by 502nd Air Base Wing leadership April 14.

Facilitated by JBSA command team — Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd ABW and JBSA commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider — participants discussed extremism and how this poses a threat to the Department of the Air Force.

This comes on the heels of an Air Force-wide Stand Down day ordered by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III to address the issues of extremist ideologies in the ranks and reinforce Department of Defense members’ fundamental commitment to the United States Constitution.

“We will not tolerate actions that go against the fundamental principles of the oath we share,” Miller said, “There is no place in our Air Force for extremist or dissident ideologies.”

Some roundtable participants shared experiences that they have encountered dealing with extremist ideologies and how it affected their workspace.

Miller expressed to them how these beliefs are damaging and why diversity is important in the military.

“Diversity makes us stronger as a unit and is true



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

U. S. Air Force Brig. Gen Caroline M. Miller (left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider (right), discuss ideas moving forward at a Tough Conversations roundtable at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 14.

“This is an intensive effort to better educate ourselves and our people about the magnitude of this problem. We must find ways together to eradicate extremist ideology in our ranks.”

502nd Air Base Wing
Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider

to our culture,” the general said. “Working in diverse teams opens up a dialogue that we must continue to have.”

One individual brought up concerns of how extremist views not directly affiliated with the military can still have a negative impact on the military.

Snider said that this starts at the top and that leaders need to be aware of this.

“As leaders, we would be naïve to think what happens outside of the gate does not affect our Airmen inside the gate.”

The chief told the roundtable participants that this is a continuous process and that these conversations are the first of many steps needed to combat this issue.

“This is an intensive effort to better educate ourselves and our people about the magnitude of this problem,” Snider added. “We must find ways together to eradicate extremist ideology in our ranks.”

General Miller and Chief Snider concluded the roundtable by expressing their thanks to all participants and reiterated to them that these tough conversations are important to have often.

“Tough Conversations” focuses on important, challenging and impactful topics that affect the Air Force and DOD. The series fosters an open and candid dialogue between 502d ABW senior leaders and service members and civilians of all ranks and backgrounds.

AETC Chiefs' Orientation Course helps selected chiefs develop Airmen we need

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command's newest Airmen selected for the rank of chief master sergeant will soon lead the Air Force of tomorrow, but not before gaining more knowledge on how to develop the Airmen we need during AETC's Chiefs' Orientation Course.

"The course is intended to prepare our newest chief master sergeants for the demands of the future fight," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC Command Chief. "We cover the chief's vital role in translating leader's direction into specific tasks and responsibilities that their teams can understand and execute. It's a deliberate way to develop the command's newest chiefs and successfully transition from tactical and operational leadership to

strategic leadership."

The AETC Chiefs' Orientation Course starts with understanding the priorities that shape the Air Force, starting with the National Security Strategic Guidance, National Defense Strategy, chief of staff of the Air Force's direction to accelerate change or lose and chief master sergeant of the Air Force's focus areas of people, readiness and culture.

"You have such an opportunity now, more than ever to make a huge difference in our Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass. "We stand on the shoulders of giants and the people who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can be here, and we owe it to them to make sure that this Air Force continues to be the world's greatest. We are facing so many challenges in our Air Force today, but through those challenges comes the opportunity for leadership and for

leaders like you all, to lead."

Going from "big to small," the course then focuses on AETC's mission to recruit, train and educate exceptional Airmen. The course also highlights AETC's priorities to advance force development, enhance lethality and readiness, transform the way we learn and cultivate an environment of excellence.

"These priorities are the foundation for future chief master sergeants in AETC who will instill core values and inspire tomorrow's Airmen," Thompson said. "Offering a people-first approach, the course helps chiefs to develop the Airmen under their responsibility by equipping them with the tools to improve effectiveness and efficiency by directly addressing bureaucracy, focusing on near-peer competitors and adapt to design changes necessary for success."

The AETC's Chiefs' Orientation

Course occurs annually and was recently held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Current safety considerations for COVID-19 were taken into account and event organizers ensured all Center for Disease Control and Department of Health and Human Services protocols were followed.

"We continue fighting through COVID-19 while navigating the risk-to-force and the risk-to-mission with operational readiness always in mind," Thompson said. "The AETC Chiefs' Orientation Course allows us to provide valuable and meaningful content for these enlisted leaders as they prepare to assume new roles and challenges and the training is absolutely critical."

Also new this year was the addition of a virtual conference for the spouses of the newly selected AETC chief master sergeants.

EFMP offers individualized family needs assessments

By Traci Howells

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Airmen and Guardians in the Exceptional Family Member Program are encouraged to have a family needs assessment, or FNA, conducted upon entry into EFMP, and then again as needs emerge and family situations change.

EFMP-Family Support coordinators use the FNA, also known as the DD Form 3054, to identify and prioritize concerns for each family. The assessment identifies immediate and long-term needs, highlights strength-based and family-centered goals that focus on maximizing what the family is already doing well, and outlines strategies to help families meet their established objectives.

Topics addressed in these

assessments include, but are not limited to: concerns about relocation; housing or finances; available local, state and/or federal support; educational concerns and transitions from the military.

"Family Support coordinators provide non-medical case management and are responsible for marketing valuable services to all families with a special needs family member," said Sandra Nichols, operations program manager for EFMP-Family Support at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. "The first step is awareness. If families know about family support and connect with the coordinators, it can help with the integration of care and improve family resiliency."

During the assessment, the local family support coordinator will listen to the

family's needs, get a general overview of what issues they are facing, and then identify how they can help. Services are tailored to each family's specific situation and needs.

Nichols said once the family's needs are assessed, a comprehensive Services Plan may also be developed for the family. This plan lays out goals and objectives, which could include a variety of support groups, play groups, Airman & Family Readiness Center resources and other important services tailored to the family's situation. The plan helps the family continue to move forward on a successful path.

Like the FNA, the services plan is a living document, reviewed and updated based on the family's changing needs, in collaboration with the family, Nichols said.

Families don't need to visit

the A&FRC in-person to receive support, Nichols added. Most assistance, including the family needs assessment, can be provided virtually or over the phone, which greatly improves access for deployed members and families at geographically separated units.

"Family Support coordinators also provide community support to enhance the quality of life of special needs family members of all Department of Defense ID cardholders," Nichols said. "This support is extended to retirees, civilians and families from other military branches."

Nichols said the Department of the Air Force has added 59 additional family support coordinators to the program in the last 3 1/2 years, which brings the total to 105 around the Department of the Air Force. It is a full-time position solely

dedicated to EFMP and improving the level of care to families at the respective installation.

"The Family Support coordinator serves as the focal point for EFMP on the installation," Nichols said. "We want families to know there are community resources available to help decrease the stress they might be facing and improve their access to care and helping resources at the local, state and federal level."

To schedule an assessment, contact your Family Support coordinator at your local Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information on the program, visit facebook.com/AirForceEFMP or www.afpc.af.mil.

For EFMP resources, visit the Department of the Air Force Family Vector website at daffamilyvector.us.af.mil/.