

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 7, 2021



JASON WILKINSON

U.S. Marine Cpl. Joseph Quintanilla shoots a bow as part of the Wounded Warrior archery competition practice and bow fitting April 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. The annual U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Trials promote recovery and rehabilitation through adaptive sports participation and camaraderie among recovering service members and veterans.

Wounded Warrior Trials promote friendly competition, recovery

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59th MDW welcomes new commander

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MHS GENESIS Patient Portal expands new features

Defense Health Agency

MHS GENESIS' patient portal is rapidly increasing in size, capability and usability.

Features gaining in popularity include a health library, provided by corporate partner Healthwise, said Air Force Lt. Col. John DaLomba, solution owner for the MHS GENESIS patient portal, at the Defense Health Agency, or DHA, in Falls Church, Virginia.

"People can look up pretty much anything that they want" such as knee pain or diabetes, he said. "It's really quite good, and quite extensive."

But the portal's "best feature, in my opinion, is the secure messaging," said DaLomba, who is also an occupational therapist. "You can exchange secure information with your provider or provider's team, and all the communication takes place within the electronic health record program. You have exactly what was conveyed - there's no opportunity to misconstrue what was typed in."

Older MHS GENESIS communication systems were limited to a member's primary care physician. The new portal system allows communication with an empaneled provider or specialty clinic and their teams of professionals with authorized access. That last part is important so that communications go to a "message pool," and don't just sit unopened in an inbox if a provider is unavailable.

The tool allows communication with certain civilian health care professionals, too, and decreases the need to use a fax machine, DaLomba said. He added that there are more new features coming for the patient



DAVID MARKS
Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Catherine Soteris, Department Head for the Main Operating Room, Directorate of Surgical Services at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, California, during MHS Genesis mock "go-live" training in September 2020.

portal but couldn't give an exact timeline because of the need to work out licensing and acquisition periods.

Meanwhile, there is an online scheduling capability for primary care physicians, and patients have the opportunity to view (and print) a lot of information from visit summaries and clinical notes, DaLomba said. Tests and measurements can also be viewed, though there is a built-in 36-hour delay for radiology and lab results, enabling doctors to view the results and prepare to communicate what they mean to the patient, particularly if there is an issue to discuss. For COVID-19 testing results, however, this delay has been removed.

DaLomba has used the MHS patient portal as a provider as recently as last year when he came to the DHA. And he had plenty of experience with the Military Health System's legacy documentation efforts - two separate systems for inpatient and outpatient records. MHS GENESIS, which he started using at Travis Air Force Base, California, in September 2019, incorporates both.

"It was a big change for

everybody to get used to," he said. "Were there challenges? Of course, there were. We were trained and there was plenty of support available. But it went well."

MHS GENESIS has been rolling out in waves around the military; eventually, the entire MHS will transition from the legacy platforms. "It's a very complex deployment schedule, and it's mapped out through the next several years," DaLomba said. The first wave came in 2017, at sites in the Pacific Northwest.

Another feature on the patient portal is a COVID-19 "e-visit," a structured, secure screening initiated by patients, which includes a questionnaire that uses "branching logic" (a method that creates a custom pathway in a survey, based on a user's responses). DaLomba noted it also creates a "disposition" for the patient, letting them know if they should report to the emergency room, contact their primary care physician, or take lesser measures.

A report generated by the e-visit is sent to the physician and the team viewing such reports, and a COVID-19 test might then be recommended.

That feature was added

early in April 2020, and "has gotten really good utilization," DaLomba said, adding there have been about 4,000 such e-visits. "It was designed to assist, and ... to decrease the number of people traveling to the military (medical) treatment facility, or MTF."

Further, that tool made it possible to make changes to the pharmacy prescription activation process. A visit to a typical military pharmacy involves a two-step process to get medications. First, you check into the pharmacy to "activate" your prescription and only then is the prescription filled. But with COVID-19, many pharmacies adopted a phone activation process to decrease foot traffic, DaLomba explained. From there, a new secure message tool for online activation was developed (also in spring 2020) for the patient portal, though not all pharmacies have adopted this feature.

Another implement in the patient portal kit bag that's coming: an online clipboard, that will enable the MTF staff to send certain paperwork to a patient to fill out before an appointment, which could include a health history, a questionnaire, a behavioral health checklist.

The patient portal, though mobile-friendly for iOS and Android, does not yet have an app to accompany it. DaLomba said an app is under discussion at the moment.

The improvements come on the heels of MHS GENESIS's new "MassVax" program, a large digital record of COVID-19 vaccinations administered to service members and their families that will more accurately track and ensure that the Department of Defense patient population has received COVID-19 vaccinations.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

Q. I have noticed over the past several months that bicyclists at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston pay no attention to traffic signs or obey basic traffic laws and many don't wear a reflective vest or helmet.

I have nearly struck three bicyclists with my vehicle as they blew straight through stop signs and traffic lights without so much as slowing down.

Don't bicyclists need to obey all traffic laws since they are considered moving vehicles?

Maybe it is time to get some training started back up as a refresher before someone is seriously injured or worse. Be smart

out there and be safe!

A. Thank you for your safety concern. We've reached out to our safety manager at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston who will coordinate with security forces to intensify enforcement of traffic violators and increase awareness of the requirements for the base populace.

We will also send this information to the rest of our Air Education and Training Command safety offices who may be experiencing the same issues at their bases

We've witnessed a nationwide increase in cycling since the pandemic started more than a year ago. From people getting reacquainted with cycling after many years, to the fitness enthusiast, to the commuter, we are seeing more and more riders on the roadways.

Ideally, we would have dedicated bike lanes to separate and de-conflict automobile and cyclist traffic to reduce risks to both road users. Lacking these, we need to share the road.

We would like to remind JBSA that bicyclists need to obey all traffic laws just like every other road user.

The Texas Department of Transportation says, "Generally, bikes are entitled to all rights and obligated to



COURTESY GRAPHIC

all duties of the road that apply to a motor vehicle." Air Force Instruction 91-207, the U.S. Air Force Traffic Safety Program, further states bicyclists are required to wear a helmet and are encouraged to wear a highly visible outer garment during daylight hours.

Q. Are there any updates to the reopening of AAFES Shoppette and Subway Restaurant on the Security Hill side of JBSA-Lackland?

Unless you work in building 2000, I believe our only options are to

drive across the base or drive off base to get some food.

A. Thank you for reaching out! The Exchange just recently opened their first 24/7 Micro Market in building 2017 to help support the community in that area. They are also working to hire more staff members in their food facilities. As soon as the staffing is available and trained, they plan to open the Subway on JBSA-Lackland's Security Hill. They are currently hiring and positions are posted at applymyexchange.com.

Having a detailed plan to escape fire can save lives

By Jessie R. Moreno

FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTOR, 902ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Thousands of people are killed by fire each year, but appropriate planning and preparation can save lives. People can survive fires in their homes by knowing proper escape procedures and being alerted in time.

The key to increasing your chances of escaping a fire safely is to be prepared. The priority for everyone should be staying informed and aware of exits, escape routes, and what procedures to follow in case of a fire.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Your exit drill should be as realistic as possible. Have everyone participate and appoint someone to be a monitor. Pretend that some exits are

blocked by fire and practice using alternate routes.

Unlocking all doors and windows rapidly – even in the dark – should be practiced by everyone. Some homes may have windows or doors that are equipped with security bars, so ensure they are available with quick-release devices and everyone knows how to use them.

Live in a two-story home? Be sure there is a safe way to reach the ground floor. Make provisions for children, seniors and people with disabilities so they are able to escape. People having difficulty moving should have a phone in their sleeping area and, if feasible, have their bedroom on the ground floor.

Always test the door, the knob and the crack between the door and its frame with the back of your hand to test

for heat, prior to opening the door. If the door is warm, use an alternative escape route, because the fire is in the immediate area. Open the door with extreme caution, even if it feels cool.

Close all doors between you and the fire, if an escape route is not manageable. By stuffing the cracks around doors with T-shirts, bedsheets, or blankets will help keep out the smoke. Signal for help with a light-colored cloth or flashlight while standing by the window.

If you are caught inside a burning building, stay low under the smoke to increase your chances of survival. Smoke contains deadly gases and heat rises. Crawl on your hands and knees while maintaining your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor. During a fire, the air will be cleaner near the floor. If you

encounter smoke when using your primary exit, use an alternate route.

Once outside, stay outside! Do not attempt to rescue possessions or pets. With loved ones still inside and possibly trapped this will be extremely difficult to do. Firefighters are better equipped to rescue them. Penetrating smoke and heat can be unbearable and firefighters have the training, experience, and protective gear to enter the burning building. Leave the building, go to your prearranged meeting point, and call 911.

For more information about fire escape planning, visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at www.nfpa.org/education or contact the Fire Prevention Offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2921, or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6915.

Developing Self: Foundational competencies for all Airmen

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Air Force has identified 24 Airman's foundational competencies for all Airmen, as part of a systematic competency-based approach to develop the force. These competencies are universally applicable to all Airmen and are categorized into four groups: Developing Self, Developing Others, Developing Ideas and Developing Organizations.

In this series on Airman's foundational competencies, the first group explained is Developing Self.

Developing Self includes the following foundational competencies: accountability, perseverance, communication, decision making, information seeking, flexibility, resilience, initiative, and self-control.

Accountability is when an Airman demonstrates reliability and honesty; takes responsibility for actions and possesses behaviors of self and team.

Though an Airman's rank, position, and even occupation may change, to be successful, accountability must be present throughout their career. Accountability includes looking after wingmen, upholding Air Force standards and core values, keeping promises, admitting mistakes, and taking personal responsibility for the team's work.

Observable behaviors for accountability include leads by example, takes personal responsibility for unit performance and models professionalism and excellence in every endeavor.

When accountability is present, Airmen make decisions even when they are



COURTESY GRAPHIC

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difficult.

In addition to accountability, the category of Developing Self includes eight more competencies: **Perseverance** is when an Airman displays grit in the accomplishment of difficult long-term goals.

Communication means an Airman effectively presents, promotes and prioritizes various ideas and issues both verbally and non-verbally through active listening, clear messaging and tailoring information to

the appropriate audience.

► **Decision Making** is about making well-informed, effective and timely decisions that weigh situational constraints, risks and benefits.

► **Information Seeking** Airmen demonstrate an underlying curiosity; desire to know more about things, people, one's self, the mission or issues; an eager, aggressive learner. Information seeking requires personal initiative.

► **Flexibility** describes an

Airman who adapts to and works with a variety of situations, individuals or groups effectively.

► **Resilience** means an Airman negotiates, manages and adapts to significant sources of stress or trauma.

► **Initiative** is doing more than is required or expected to improve job results. Initiative as a foundational competency means an Airman takes action appropriately without being prompted. With initiative, an Airman strives to do a better

job and thinks of creative ways to complete the job.

► **Self-Control** means keeping emotions under control and restraining negative actions when under stress. Self-control begins with emotional intelligence by knowing how to identify our own emotions and respond positively. Knowing what to do if you feel frustrated, angry, overwhelmed, anxious and sad is valuable for positive outcomes.

Understanding where an Airman scores on individual Foundational Competencies will help an Airman take ownership of his or her development. See image graphics to view competency levels of each developing-self competencies.

Airmen who want more information on the Airman's Foundational Competencies and to participate in a self-assessment can log in to MyVector and select Air Force Competencies from the main menu. The myVector competency assessment tool also allows Airmen to request feedback from their supervisors and/or 360-degree feedback from subordinates, peers and higher-ranking members. Also, the member is provided links to educational resources to address areas for improvement.

The Air Education and Training Command Directorate of Operations and Communications Competencies Division methodically developed the Airman's Foundational Competencies, which are a combination of knowledge, skills, abilities and other characteristics that manifest in observable and measurable patterns of behaviors.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

BAMC bids farewell to commanding general

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center held a relinquishment of command ceremony April 28 to bid farewell to the commanding general.

Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby took command of BAMC a little over 10 months ago. He will soon begin his new assignment as the commanding general of Regional Health Command-Central.

“As I depart, I want to personally thank everyone for their support, their dedication and professionalism over what has become a very quick tour,” Bagby said. “This has been among the busiest, really hectic, but most rewarding tours and times of my entire professional life, and I want to thank you all for being a big part of that.”

Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, the current RHC-C commanding general, praised the departing general for his leadership.

“It is an absolute pleasure to be here today to honor an outstanding leader and Soldier for the great work he has accomplished in a particularly challenging time,” Harter said. “When I turned over the reins of BAMC not quite a year ago, COVID-19 had escalated to an all-time high, and in the months that followed, Brig. Gen. Bagby faced unrelenting challenges. We are here today to celebrate his success in meeting those obstacles, and express our heartfelt appreciation for his strategic vision, his leadership and his commitment in supporting both military and community-based missions here in San Antonio.”

Harter spoke about the many ways BAMC contributed to the fight against COVID-19 and how the organization under Bagby's



JASON W. EDWARDS

Army Brig. Gen. Shan K. Bagby (right), outgoing commanding general, passes the guidon to Army Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter, commanding general, U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central, during a relinquishment of command ceremony at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 29. Bagby will succeed Harter as the RHC-C commanding general.

leadership supported not only the Department of Defense and military medicine but the local community as well.

“Strategic readiness is evident daily with an average of 12 traumas, 55 admissions, 186 ER (emergency room) visits and 3,600 outpatient visits,” she said. “BAMC's case mix index of 1.7 is the highest of all Department of Defense military hospitals.

“BAMC stood up remote COVID-19 screening and testing operations for more than 35,000 patients,” Harter added. “In the first two months of vaccination operations, he and the BAMC team safely administered more than 40,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to staff and DOD

beneficiaries.”

Bagby said he was sad to leave, but joked that he still hoped he would be invited back for potlucks.

“Good leaders, just like great organizations, have to be flexible, agile and adaptable in order to remain ready and relevant, because if you are not willing to change you become quickly irrelevant, so I welcome the new opportunity,” he said.

The outgoing commander praised Team BAMC for their “well-earned reputation of excellence in quality of care, as the premier medical facility and the DOD's only Level 1 Trauma Center.”

Bagby talked about the many challenges BAMC faced over

the past year, such as the global pandemic, political unrest and social turmoil, highlighting a few of the initiatives BAMC implemented as a result of COVID-19, including the research conducted, drive-thru pharmacy, COVID-19 wards, increased ECMO capacity and the vaccination site.

“These efforts have been praised across the joint base command and San Antonio,” he said. “In addition, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our beneficiaries and patients, which after all, at the end of the day is who we serve.”

Bagby also applauded the staff for their dedication during the winter snowstorms.

“As I depart, I want to personally thank everyone for their support, their dedication and professionalism over what has become a very quick tour. This has been among the busiest, really hectic, but most rewarding tours and times of my entire professional life, and I want to thank you all for being a big part of that.”

Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby, departing BAMC commanding general

“These events were a demonstration of your resilience and ingenuity in overcoming challenges; not only meeting, but exceeding standards and expectations,” Bagby said. “To sum it up, your performance as a team is remarkable.”

Bagby said he has confidence that BAMC will be well taken care of under the leadership of acting commander Army Col. Michael Wirt.

The outgoing commander concluded by thanking the staff for making his time at BAMC “memorable and rewarding.”

“Know that each of you has a place in my heart,” he said. “I am humbled by your dedication to duty and your dedication to service. Thank you for letting me be a part of Team BAMC.”

Wounded Warrior Trials promote friendly competition, recovery for service members

By Jason Wilkinson
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On a recent spring morning at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston archery range, U.S. Marine Cpl. Joseph Quintanilla drew his bow, holding tension with a broad back and shoulders more often associated with football than archery.

Quintanilla was practicing for the archery competition in the 2021 U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Trials held at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston April 6.

The trials take place annually and help promote recovery and rehabilitation for recovering service members. The events determine who gets to represent the U.S. Marine Corps in the joint-service Warrior Games.

The trials cover several sports, many of which Quintanilla competed in, such as archery, powerlifting, shot put, discus and air gun.

The morning of his practice, Quintanilla was unhappy with the grouping of his arrows. Steve Arnold, one of the volunteer archery coaches, helped him make some adjustments to his sighting.

Quintanilla kept a level head, even when the arrows weren't landing where he wanted. It wasn't the worst thing that's happened to him, he explained.

While stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Quintanilla had a "little bit of a mishap." He lost sight in his left eye and about 40% of the sight in his right eye, he said.

"You know, I didn't think at 22 years old I would have to get cerebrospinal fluid leak surgery and a hip replacement, but it is what it is," Quintanilla said.

"There are going to be other people at the games, but the only person you have to be worried about being better than is the person you were yesterday."

U.S. Marine Cpl.
Joseph Quintanilla

But, he continues to remain positive and push himself — he said he views the loss of sight as an advantage in archery, as it helps him focus downrange.

As the morning wore on, things improved — Quintanilla was shooting more consistently, and at one point he took a photo of a tight grouping of arrows.

When asked what lessons can be gleaned from archery, he replied, "Don't beat yourself up too much; but at the same time, you can always do better."

This is a delicate balance many elite athletes would be familiar with — but perhaps especially important to the athlete who is a recovering service member or veteran.

"There are going to be other people at the games, but the only person you have to be worried about being better than is the person you were yesterday," Quintanilla said.

The Wounded Warrior Battalion has helped him with his journey to focus and grow as a person.

As a high school student, Quintanilla was always competitive and athletic. He competed in powerlifting



JASON WILKINSON

U.S. Marine Cpl. Joseph Quintanilla looks downrange during the Wounded Warrior archery competition practice and bow fitting April 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

through the United States Powerlifting Association — and the Wounded Warrior trials have helped him find venues to continue being

competitive. They have shown him that "with a little bit of help from others, you can achieve pretty much anything you want in life."

"I'm glad that I'm still able to be here and do the things that I love, and find new things I love to do," Quintanilla said.



DANIEL J. CALDERÓN

U.S. Air Force Col. Heather Yun, deputy commander for Medical Services, talks about the new lactation pods during an opening ceremony at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 10.

BAMC installs additional lactation pods for patients, staff members

By Daniel J. Calderón

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center installed two new lactation pods earlier this month for use by staff members and beneficiaries.

The pods will augment the three lactation rooms already at BAMC. Mothers who choose to use the rooms can either bring their breast pump equipment or they can feed their children in the pods.

“Some women are embarrassed to even ask if there is a space where they can express,” said Michelle Valdez, BAMC’s Graduate Medical Education executive manager and project manager for the

Lactation Pods Project. “It’s true that moms can feed anywhere, but we wanted to make sure that we had a place where they could have their privacy.”

Although by law, mothers can pump or breastfeed in any location they choose, BAMC’s lactation rooms and new lactation pods provide privacy for staff and beneficiaries who choose to use them.

“For staff, we realized that each unit had to develop its own dedicated space (for lactating mothers),” said Dena Miller, an inpatient lactation consultant at BAMC. “Units usually had makeshift rooms.”

This meant that for many years, BAMC staff members who needed to express breast

milk would use a designated space like a locker room or a closet that had been cleaned out and cleared for use.

However, the only space for beneficiaries to either express or feed their infants was in the pediatric area or in their rooms if they were inpatients.

Over the course of several years, BAMC did designate three locations as lactation rooms. These rooms satisfied Army Directive 2015-43, the Revised Breastfeeding and Lactation Support Policy. However, the new pods will ensure there are adequate facilities for mothers who wish to nurse or express in areas other than pediatrics.

“We’re a medical facility, so our staff really needed to have

adequate spaces,” said Carolyn Lowe, BAMC’s outpatient lactation consultant. “If they didn’t have time, then they wouldn’t pump. And, if they didn’t pump, then their milk supply would just go away.”

Although there are alternatives, many health providers do encourage breastfeeding, or using a mother’s breast milk, as the primary source of nourishment for newborns and babies. The new facilities at BAMC will give moms a secure and private location to either breastfeed or pump. The pods are lighted, have two bench seats — one on either side of the egg-shaped pod- and have electrical outlets so moms can plug in their own equipment. The pods do not

have breast pump equipment.

One pod is located on the second floor adjacent to the C elevator and the second is right outside BAMC’s OB/GYN clinic. The pods, both of which are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, are accessible 24 hours a day via the free Mamava app. Moms can download the app to unlock the pods. Instructions on how to unlock the pods are on each of them.

“This was truly a team effort,” Valdez said. “The lactation consultants, the leadership, and everyone involved in this project, and in this process, put in a lot of work. I’m glad we have these facilities for our staff and for our patients.”

JBSA-FSH Military Tax Assistance Center extends services to June 15

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center, or MTAC, will continue to offer free income tax preparation services for military members and retirees until June 15.

MTAC, located in building 133 at 2450 Dragon Valley Road, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays and U.S. Army North training days.

The tax assistance center provides tax preparation services – free of charge – for active duty members, active duty Reservists, dependents, as well as military retirees and their dependents.

Tax preparation services are provided by 12 volunteers, including Army Soldiers trained through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or VITA. Volunteers who complete the VITA program are certified by the IRS to prepare taxes.

Lt. Col. Satura Gabriel, 502nd Force Support Group Staff Judge Advocate, said MTAC is extending its services until June 15 because the IRS has extended the income tax deadline for residents of Texas and other states affected by the winter storm in February.

“We just want to make sure we can accommodate Texas residents and



COURTESY GRAPHIC

provide services to every active duty member, retiree and dependents of active duty and retirees,” Gabriel said.

Gabriel said customers still have to adhere to COVID-19 protocols and procedures put into place to ensure their safety and those of the tax preparers.

Customers can come to the office by appointment only by contacting MTAC at 210-295-1040 or online at fortsamtax.setmore.com at 210-295-1040 or online at fortsamtax.setmore.com.

When arriving for their appointment, customers must wear masks and will be asked questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms.

On the day of their appointment,

Gabriel said tax filers need to bring a military ID to verify eligibility, a photocopy of their Social Security card, copies of their W-2 forms or copies of their 1099 or 1098 forms, and others applicable tax forms, if necessary.

Regulations prohibit tax returns from being prepared unless the tax filer brings a photocopy of the Social Security card for themselves and everyone else who will appear on their tax return, including dependent children and spouse.

Customers will fill out a sheet and drop off copies of the necessary tax documents at MTAC. Tax preparers will work on the taxes and when the

taxes are done and prepared, the tax filer will be contacted to set up an appointment to come back and go over their taxes, pickup up their documents and sign their prepared tax forms.

Customers can choose to do their appointments remotely by selecting that option at fortsamtax.setmore.com. If they choose to do it virtually, they will be given instructions on how to upload documents on the Department of Defense Safe Access File Exchange system. They will be contacted for a virtual follow-up appointment, in which they will have the opportunity to review, go over their taxes and sign their prepared tax form with a tax preparer.

The scope of services provided by MTAC volunteers includes basic tax preparation for customers who own no more than two rental properties. However, MTAC doesn't provide preparation services for corporate taxes, stock trades or customers who cash out on their Roth IRAs early, own more than two rental properties or have any other less common issues that are out of scope for VITA.

Customers who have questions on the scope of services offered by MTAC can call the appointment line at 210-295-1040 or at fortsamtax.setmore.com at 210-295-1040 or at fortsamtax.setmore.com, where they can leave their contact information.

U.S. Army North hosts virtual annual disaster response exercise

By Bethany Huff

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, hosted approximately 750 military and civilian personnel from across the country to take part in its annual disaster response training exercise Vibrant Response from April 26 to May 8 through virtual collaborative software.

“While Vibrant Response 21 is virtual this year, this invaluable training still provides an opportunity to work together with federal and state agencies to validate military units assigned to respond to CBRN events,” said Col. Catherine Cherry, U.S. Army North Deputy G7 training directorate.

This year's exercise is training and certifying Task

Force 76 and its headquarters elements through a command post exercise, based on a simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incident.

Task Force 76 is a deployable reserve component element that, when activated, provides command and control of military response forces in support of civilian responders to manage catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, or CBRN, incidents.

The task force headquarters is an element of the 76th Operational Response Command, an Army Reserve formation located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Vibrant Response 21 involves participants from the Department of Defense, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other military and civilian agencies across the United States.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

New kiosks available for prescription pick-up

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

Brooke Army Medical Center added another option for patients picking up prescriptions.

The new express prescription kiosks are located in the Medical Mall at BAMC and in the new Exchange at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"This new kiosk allows our patients to pick up their prescriptions even when the pharmacy is closed," said Army Col. Stacey Causey, Department of Pharmacy chief. "We also hope to increase patient satisfaction by reducing lines and wait times in the pharmacy."

How to Enroll

"Patients will first need to go to one of the two kiosks and enroll to use the service," explained Army Capt. Ashley Roberts, chief of pharmacy operations. "At the time of enrollment, they will need an active prescription number."

During enrollment, the patient will have the option to create a User ID and PIN. They can also add their fingerprint and/or military ID to use instead of a User ID.

Once enrolled, eligible beneficiaries can order their prescription refills through AudioCare by calling the number on their prescription bottle, 1-800-469-7170 or 210-916-8700. They will need to select either "BAMC Main Outpatient Pharmacy ScriptCenter Kiosk" or "Fort Sam Houston PX Pharmacy ScriptCenter Kiosk" as their pick-up location.

"The prescriptions are filled by pharmacy staff and loaded into the ScriptCenter kiosk for the patient to pick up," Roberts said. "Regular prescriptions will be ready in three duty days after 1 p.m. and non-formulary medications will require up to 10 duty days to be ready."

Prescriptions not picked up after seven days will be returned to the pharmacy.

When the patient arrives at the kiosk, they will log in using one of three options: fingerprint and PIN; military ID and PIN or User ID and PIN. They will review their prescription information on the screen and sign to acknowledge the prescription information is correct. The prescription will be dispensed from the drawer or larger items may be stored in a larger bin,



Rose Guillen, pharmacy technician, demonstrates the proper use of new express prescription kiosk at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, March 31. The new kiosks will allow patients to pick up prescriptions even when the pharmacy is closed.

JASON W. EDWARDS

which will open automatically.

It is important to note, prescriptions that require refrigeration cannot be stored in the kiosk and must be picked up from the pharmacy.

"If the patient has any questions about their medication, they can call the pharmacy during business hours and speak with a pharmacist," Roberts said.

"The ScriptCenter kiosk is a faster, more convenient option for patients," Roberts said.

For more information or questions regarding the new prescription pick-up kiosk, call 210-916-1536, select option #6.

LACKLAND

59th Medical Wing welcomes Air Force Nurse Corps chief as new commander

By Airman Joshua Rosario
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Jeannine Ryder took command of the 59th Medical Wing during a change of command ceremony at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 29. The outgoing commander, Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes, leaves for Washington, D.C., to serve as the next Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force.

Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb, commander of the Air Education and Training Command, was the presiding officer for the ceremony and offered words of gratitude to the members of the 59th MDW for ensuring mission success while enduring the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When you think of the 59th Medical Wing, this is the frontline infantry in the war

on COVID-19,” he said. “I’m really proud of the job you all have done. It’s not over. It’s far from over, but your efforts are monumental.”

Before transferring the guidon, Webb offered Ryder words of encouragement.

“The 59th Medical Wing frontline warriors have a phenomenal incoming commander who is clearly ready to lead,” said Webb. “She brings with her a wide range of experiences, and it’s exactly what we need to be implemented in the 59th Medical Wing.”

Ryder, who also serves as the chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, will continue carrying out the mission of developing warrior medics through patient-centered care.

“I am honored and humbled to be your commander,” Ryder said. “What you do every day to support and provide care to our patients is an awesome

responsibility... I do not take this responsibility lightly. It is a privilege and not a right to be a commander. And so again, I want to thank everybody for their attendance and presence. I look forward to meeting everyone in the community, installation and at this wing. I am truly honored and thankful to be the commander.”

After three years in command, DeGoes reflected on his time at the 59th MDW.

“I want to say thank you one more time to the men and women of the 59th Medical Wing for getting the mission done every day, no matter the challenge,” DeGoes said. “I have never been more proud to be an Air Force medic than the last three years serving as your commander. It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime. Part of my heart will always remain with Wilford Hall and the 59th.”



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeannine Ryder (right), 59th Medical Wing commander, assumes command of the 59th MDW with a ceremonial hand-off of the unit guidon from U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, during a change of command ceremony April 29 at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

2021 Spring Carnival moved to May 8

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

The 37th Training Wing, in partnership with Joint Base San Antonio Helping Agencies, is presenting the 2021 Spring Carnival May 8 at the Pffingston Reception Center and Gateway Chapel at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The event was originally scheduled for May 1 but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

The event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., features live music, games, a photo backdrop and food trucks. Admission is free.

In accordance with public health guidance, masks are mandatory. COVID-19 safety precautions will be enforced.



THOMAS CONEY

Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, hosted the 502nd ABW Honorary Commander Hail and Farewell April 23 at the Gateway Club at JBSA-Lackland. The purpose of the program is to foster a supportive partnership and relationship with community leaders to increase their awareness about the 502nd ABW, JBSA and the Air Force missions.

502nd ABW commanders, senior leaders welcome new honorary commanders

By C Arce

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, hosted the 502nd ABW Honorary Commander Hail and Farewell April 23 at the Gateway Club at JBSA-Lackland.

The purpose of the program is to foster a supportive partnership and relationship with community leaders to increase their awareness about the 502nd ABW, JBSA and the Air Force missions.

Honorary commanders are civic leaders chosen from

communities around the JBSA metropolitan area and are paired with 502nd ABW military commanders and senior leaders.

Twenty-three civic leaders were honored during the event with a certificate and pinning ceremony.

"There is no doubt that we will continue to strengthen our relationship with the community as we welcome our new honorary commanders today," Miller said.

Lt. Col. Edward Walker, 502nd Operations Support Squadron commander, said the program allows the wing to connect the local military leaders with key civic and

community leaders.

"The program is an invaluable initiative that allows us to continue telling the military story to the community around us," Walker said. "Nowhere could this be more important than in Military City USA."

Walker is a San Antonio native who graduated from the San Antonio school system. He said he is looking forward to his future interactions with his new honorary commander, who is an educator.

"I was particularly interested in working with a local educator to bring what we have to offer in the 502nd OSS to bear in furthering STEM goals within

schools, while also showcasing what military service has to offer," Walker said.

The 502nd Trainer Development Squadron departing honorary commander Sean Hoffmann, Chief Communications Officer for the Seguin Independent School District, shared his experience and encouraged the new group to make time and learn what the 502nd and JBSA missions are through the program.

"You get to learn about what goes on at the bases and the different installations," Hoffmann said. "The interactiveness of the program is outstanding too. You're not going to sit in a lecture hall to

learn about what the installations do. You're going to be a part of the mission and you get to see and engage."

During their two-year term, the group will have an opportunity to participate in approximately 16 events hosted by the 502nd ABW commander and some other special events hosted by their squadron or group commander. In the past, some of the events have included changes of command, Air Force Ball, Commanders Call, and various tours across the three main JBSA locations.

The new honorary commanders' are scheduled to attend their first event on June 4 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

DLIELC: Fighting through a pandemic

Defense Language Institute English Language Center Public Affairs

The COVID-19 pandemic is having – and continues to have – a devastating effect on the world.

It is a global struggle that has touched the livelihoods of many regardless of any factor that would usually be identified as a difference. Still, many organizations have had to adapt and readjust to persevere through these trying times.

The 637th Training Group, alongside all three squadrons within the Defense Language Institute English Learning Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, have had to come together swiftly, with the outcome of building a more resilient organization with more tools in their toolbox.

The staff at the DLIELC received a notice March 2, 2020, to be cautious of overseas travel due to COVID-19.

A few weeks later, the Department of Defense released a memorandum ordering a “stop movement” for all military personnel, civilians, and dependents on government-funded travel.

Soon, the DLIELC campus would transition into something never seen before. Similar to other organizations across the world, DLIELC moved to an unprecedented mode of operations.

Most of the DLIELC staff left their classrooms and offices to begin teleworking from home. Mobile Training Teams, or MTTs, once providing English instruction worldwide, were canceled and recalled back to the United States. International students on the DLIELC campus had to adjust from classroom instruction to learning English virtually from a computer or laptop within their dorms. “We had to figure out how to implement teleworking

throughout the group and supply computers to the staff so they could telework,” said Chad Humphrey, director, 637th Training Support Squadron. “We also needed to equip students with the ability to complete online training.

“We had previously issued laptops to a small portion of the student population, but COVID forced us to innovate and complete that capability for all students,” Humphrey said. “To prepare for the future, we are ordering an additional 500 laptops to support our maximum student capacity which will also support the Learning Management System.”

With the introduction of vaccinations and COVID-19 precautions, DLIELC is starting to resume a semblance of normal operations. The overseas mission has resumed in six countries with more sites pending continuation in the coming months.

“Although our MTTs were grounded for most of last year, they have come back online over the past couple of months,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Anderson, commander, 637th International Support Squadron. Fortunately, we have been able to send several teams out while dealing with special requirements down-range that will enable our teams to perform the mission safely.”

The DLIELC training staff has mastered the adoption of new software to conduct meetings and provide instruction remotely. Some of this software is even being used to train individuals not present on DLIELC’s campus; this is a capability that DLIELC did not previously possess.

“COVID-19 was a change agent propelling us towards modernization and procedural reviews to meet our international partner needs,” said Lt. Col. Geoffrey Brasse, commander, 332nd Training



COURTESY PHOTO

Armed with a copy of the American Language Course text, a cadet participates in an online class facilitated by a Defense Language Institute English Language Center Virtual Training Team in August 2020. VTTs were used in collaboration with the U.S. Army to provide English language training to some of the U.S. Army Echo Trainees. Since the start of this curriculum, VTTs have also been used with some of DLIELC’s international partners, like Uzbekistan.

Squadron. “Each element of our innovation was a bottom-up approach where the instructor, tester, or curriculum member chased ideas and let us know what was or was not working and requested the appropriate resources. This empowered approach implemented an effective change in a matter of days rather than weeks or longer.”

Additionally, DLIELC was able to complete the beta test for the USAF Echo Flight Program, the opening of the

new Aviation Language Training Center, and has jumpstarted Air University’s Holm Center’s Puerto Rico Project Language initiative to diversify the USAF Officer cadre.

“I’m very proud of how our people quickly adapted to the pandemic, looked for innovative ways to take care of our teammates, and kept our critical mission moving forward. Despite the COVID-19 threat,” said Col. Kouji Gillis, DLIELC commandant. “I believe we

can find some goodness that came out this past year at many different levels – in the international sphere, Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force and DLIELC. Strengthening relationships, innovating, integrating, and collaborating while allowing our personnel to be creative and learning how to operate in various environments is a great example of how our DLIELC family has fought through COVID-19 and other multi-dimensional threats this past year.”

37th TRW takes virtual approach to hosting annual drill down

By Agnes Koterba

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Since 2017, the 37th Training Wing hosted the Drill Down Invitational. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the prospects of holding an in-person invitational this year were bleak.

But a group of 37th Training Group Military Training Leaders pursued a different approach. Thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Kelli Jackson, and Tech. Sgts. Morgan Grebens, Matthew Daum, and Takhiah Christensen, the tradition will continue virtually.

In years past, drill teams traveled to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to compete. Thousands of guests attended the invitational to watch as Airmen showcased their talents during a series of drill routines.

“This year is going to be very different. This year we will not host a huge event with attendance from the five training groups, distinguished visitors, spectators, or local vendors. The 2021 Virtual Drill Down will not be a competition,” Daum stated.

On April 17, two technical training drill teams, known as Black Ropes, from the 37th TRG and 59th TRG performed their freestyle drill routine highlighting their creativity, dedication, and teamwork. The event was recorded, and will be combined with drill team



AGNES KOTERBA

The 59th Training Group technical training Black Rope drill team perform their routine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 17 during the annual Drill Down Invitational. There are typically two drill-down events hosted annually promoting esprit de corps and morale among Airmen. The 59th TRG is located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

videos from the 17th TRG, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; 81st TRG, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi; and 82nd TRG, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The virtual invitational was shown on

various social media outlets April 30.

While the event was not in person this year, the military training leaders took the lead in making the drill down happen virtually.

“The 37th TRG wanted to host the annual drill down to keep the tradition alive, provide morale and esprit de corps for the training Airmen,” Christensen said.

Jackson, 37th TRG military training superintendent, expressed her gratitude for everyone’s contribution to making the event a success.

“Although COVID-19 hindered our opportunity to physically bring all the Airmen together this year, it didn’t hinder our spirits or collaborative efforts to pull off a first-ever virtual event,” Jackson said.

“I am thankful for the support provided by our training wings, training groups, public affairs team, military training leaders, and drill teams” she added. “They are the true heroes for making this idea a reality.”

The skills displayed during the drill down were memorable and a true reflection of each team’s commitment.

“We expect excellence in all of our Airmen and you all repeatedly show that every single day. You show how excellent you make our Air Force. Sometimes though we come across Airmen such as these that take that bar higher. Truly phenomenal,” said Col. Joyce Storm, 37th TRG commander. “I truly appreciate being on your team and you all being a part of my family, my brothers and sisters.”

Warhawk University opens door for training, development opportunities

By Christa D’Andrea

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

American comedian Milton Berle once said, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”

That is exactly what the 37th Training Wing Training & Development Council has built through the establishment of Warhawk University.

Warhawk University is the door to a host of professional development and training opportunities available for all individuals assigned or affiliated with the Gateway Wing, including mission partners from Joint Base San Antonio.

Officially launched in March 2021, “Warhawk University” is the umbrella name for the system to manage and maximize training and learning resources.

“We were brainstorming on the need to promote and provide professional development opportunities and to find better ways to take care of our wing Airmen,” said Joe Surita, 37th TRW Executive Director and chairman for the Training & Development Council. “We knew there was a lot of amazing training happening across the wing, but also knew most of it was happening in a vacuum.”

Surita added that there was also a need to share ideas, promote training, and assist units with funding.

The initial September 2020 brainstorming session has evolved into a volunteer group of more than 20 Airmen from across the wing — active duty and civilian — who meet on a monthly basis to collaborate and host learning opportunities for Airmen so they can grow in their personal and



COURTESY GRAPHIC

professional lives.

While each of the four groups within the wing operates their own T&D councils, they work together to synchronize training ideas and

resources to minimize duplication of effort and maximize the effectiveness of the program.

Warhawk University is tied to one of the 61 objectives laid out in the wing’s strategic plan, “Operationalizing the Warhawk Way,” and falls under the goal of “Fostering Development for Every Member of the Wing.”

“The collective efforts of the council members have created a repository of opportunity,” Surita stated. “From events, presentations, courses and speaking engagements, Warhawk University has something for everyone.”

Details can be found on the Warhawk U calendar. For more information, to volunteer, or submit an idea for training, contact the T&D council at 37TRW.Warhawk.University@us.af.mil.

IAAFA stands out in AETC awards, earns top accolades

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Enlisted Professional Military Education Center at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has earned top honors at the Air Education and Training Command level for the second consecutive year.

The academy's professional military education program was named Outstanding EPME Center of the Year in the 2020 Enlisted Professional Military Education Awards Program.

"It is a great honor to be recognized for this award for the second consecutive year," said Lt. Col. Oscar Martinez, 837th Training Squadron commander. "This is due to not only the amazing work all our instructors and support elements bring every day to ensure a quality PME program, but also the dedication and innovation to make the program even better to support our partner nations' requirements."

The Enlisted Professional Military Education Awards Program recognizes Airmen who support the EPME mission with their outstanding performance, service and exceptional contributions.

"The main focus of the EPME Center of the Year Award was 'Outstanding Unit Performance' which IAAFA showed time and time again," said Chief Master Sgt. Eric Johnson, chief of AETC Enlisted PME Programs. "They have a great team and are doing amazing things for our Airmen."

IAAFA competed against three EPME centers from two installations. The board tied the academy's primary mission - to educate and train military personnel of the Americas and partner nations - to the overall impact on the Air Force.

"The competition was tough as our force generators are



PHOTOS BY VANESSA R. ADAME

Professional Military Education Instructors gather for a photo March 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy after winning Outstanding EPME Center of the Year, Air Education and Training Command, in the 2020 Enlisted Professional Military Education Awards Program.

doing awesome things all across the Air Force," Johnson said.

The academy teaches international students entirely in Spanish, helping enhance interoperability between the U.S. and partner nations. Spanish-speaking Airmen from the U.S. Air Force also have the opportunity to learn right beside partner nation students and earn credit for professional military education.

IAAFA's PME center is the only institution in the Air Force that offers all three levels of enlisted PME instruction, with courses for junior enlisted, non-commissioned officers and senior NCOs. The PME center was also the only one in the Air Force that maintained in-residence instruction during COVID-19 when all other PME centers closed their doors.

One of the academy's PME instructors, Master Sgt. Diego Ladino Restrepo, PME Flight



Master Sgt. Diego Ladino Restrepo stands for a photo March 26 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland after being named Professional Military Education Senior Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, Air Education and Training Command, in the 2020 EPME Awards Program. He is now competing at the Air Force level.

"Our work as instructors is very important for the development of our armed forces, and it's very gratifying to know that the work, dedication and effort is recognized."

Master Sgt. Diego Ladino Restrepo, Professional Military Education Flight Chief

Chief, also earned top honors in the AETC awards as he was named EPME Senior NCO of the Year.

According to Johnson, Ladino Restrepo's unwavering leadership and commitment to excellence at IAAFA put him over his peers. He was selected for the award out of 11 individuals.

"Master Sgt. Ladino Restrepo not only showed excellence as an individual but also as a leader of a phenomenal team," Johnson said.

As COVID-19 impacted facilities everywhere, Ladino Restrepo and his team worked countless hours to continue the mission despite operating in a new environment.

"I am honored to have won this award," he said. "Our work as instructors is very important for the development of our armed forces, and it's very gratifying to know that the work, dedication and effort is recognized. Being recognized as the instructor of the year fills me with great pride, gratitude and the desire to continue giving my best professionally and above all to continue learning more every day."

Ladino Restrepo and IAAFA's EPME Center are now competing for the same awards at the Air Force level.

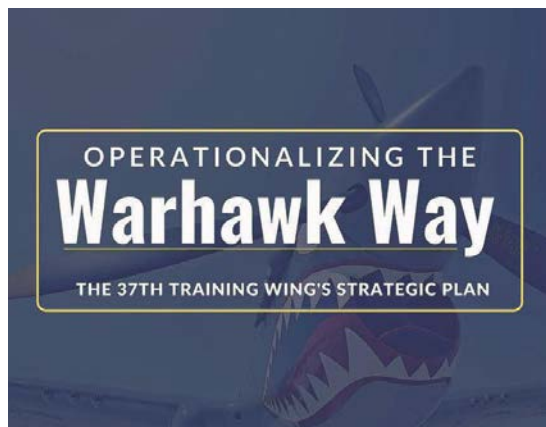
Strategic plan provides clear path to success for Gateway Wing

By Christa D'Andrea
37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

The 37th Training Wing has been tackling objectives, driving innovative solutions and building partnerships since the release of its strategic plan, "Operationalizing the Warhawk Way."

The framework for the strategic plan is based on the 37th TRW commander's priorities of People, Partnerships and Modernization; and is a follow-on to the existing "Warhawk Way" strategic document that outlines and communicates the organization's values.

"It was critically important to me that we both defined and chartered a clear path to success early in my command tour," said Col. Rockie K. Wilson, 37th TRW commander. "I wanted to not only understand what was important to us but also what we wanted to do about it. Most importantly, I wanted all Warhawks to know, without uncertainty, where we were headed and how we were going to get there."



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The "Call to Action" clearly articulates the importance of the plan's outcomes and encourages all Warhawks to get involved to help the wing attain its vision of becoming the Department of Defense Training Standard of Excellence.

The plan boils down the priorities into actionable goals and objectives that "our Warhawks can get passionate about and know what role

they play in making our wing better," Wilson added.

There are approximately 60 objectives laid out in the plan, each tied to a goal. For example, under the "People" priority, the goals include: 1) Increase personal and family resilience; 2) Increase Airmen and organizational readiness; 3) Foster development for every member of the wing; and 4) Actively listen and communicate to our people.

The Warhawk Solutions feedback mechanism, managed by the Commander's Action Group, is a prime example of one of the objectives that have evolved and matured since the plan's inception. Other "People" objectives include establishing quarterly Warhawk Family Fun Days, formalizing the Training and Development Council, and establishing a resiliency program manager to lead quarterly forums.

The plan's development began in September 2020 and was a collaborative effort of the wing and group command teams. Since its release in December 2020, the plan has been reviewed and adjusted quarterly as required.

The 37th Inspector General team created a tracking mechanism within Microsoft Teams to track the plan's objectives so outcomes and impact can be measured. The objectives will be tracked as part of the Commander's Inspection Program and each unit's Self-Assessment Program. The objectives will be inspected as part of the unit inspections and reported at

the Commander's Inspection Management Board.

"We have created a commander's inspection program that is tied directly into the strategic plan," Wilson described. "Essentially we now have a closed-loop system that shows a clear link between meeting the plan's objectives and the success of mission execution. We have fully integrated Operationalizing the Warhawk Way into the Air Force Inspection system and the CCIP. That's a win for the Warhawks!"

"Operationalizing the Warhawk Way" is available on the 37th TRW public website at www.37trw.af.mil.

"Every member of the wing has a stake in this plan and the outcomes produced. I challenge each of you to read and absorb the details - the plan is purposeful and specific in order to help you understand your role in our mission," Wilson wrote in the plan's Call to Action.

If interested in assisting with one of the plan's tasks, contact the CAG at 37TRW.CAG.SpecialProjects@us.af.mil.

733rd Training Squadron NCO wins at 4th Air Force

433rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

A flight engineer with the 733rd Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has been selected as the 4th AF Senior NCO of the Year.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Cynthia Villa, 4th AF command chief, announced that Master Sgt. Jason Henry, 733rd Training Squadron flight engineer instructor, had won the honor at the 2020 4th AF Airmen and First Sergeant Council of the year winners

March 11 at March Air Reserve Base, California.

The 733rd Training Squadron is assigned to the 433rd Operations Group, 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. It provides all student administrative and managerial oversight to operate the only C-5 formal schoolhouse in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Students attending this formal training come from six squadrons within the Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command.

Henry will progress to compete at the Air Force Reserve Command level.



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

Master Sgt. Jason Henry, 733rd Training Squadron flight engineer instructor, sits in the cockpit of a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 25. Henry won NCO of the Year for 2020 at the 4th Air Force level.

RANDOLPH

12th TRS, 435th FTS acquire inert munitions for Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals students

By Staff Sgt. Preston Cherry
12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Student pilots from the 435th Fighter Training Squadron are becoming more familiar with aircraft munitions thanks to the recently added inert weapons at the 12th Training Squadron and 435th FTS at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

The added inventory includes a 500-pound Guided Bomb Unit-12 laser-guided munition and two 250-pound GBU-39 GPS-aided bombs. These inert munitions are used in academics, simulators and flying training with 435th FTS and 12th TRS "Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals" program.

"The addition of the GBU-12 and GBU-39 helped complete the display of weapons that are being used today in the combat air forces," said Brian Harper, 12th TRS IFF civilian simulator instructor.

The 12th TRS is responsible for IFF academic and simulator training for the 435th FTS, whose mission is to prepare the best young aviators in the world to succeed as fighter wingmen and weapon systems officers while developing professional fighter instructors and leaders.

"It's important to have real-world examples of munitions that fighter aircrew will be expected to employ, as opposed to concepts and pictures," Harper said. "It brings what we are training to life."

The 435th FTS also conducts IFF student training in nearly 50 T-38C Talon aircraft, graduating approximately 150 students annually.



STAFF SGT. PRESTON CHERRY

Robert Erickson, 12th Training Squadron Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals simulator instructor, back left, Patrick Fox, 12th Maintenance Group Munitions Flight chief, back right, and 435th Fighter Training Squadron student pilots, gather for a photo at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 21. The 12th TRS recently added a 500-pound Guided Bomb, Unit-12 laser guided munition and a 250-pound GBU-39 GPS-aided bomb, which accompanied other inert munitions held there to help educate student pilots in Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals training.

After graduating from either undergraduate pilot training or combat systems officer training, pilots and CSOs undergo a nine-week program to prepare them for follow-on assignments where they could carry the munitions in the F-15E, F-16, A-10, F-22, F-15C or

F-35A aircraft.

"Eventually, it's not just going to be practice," said 2nd Lt. Dylan Soder, 435th FTS student. "It's going to be actual live munitions that can do real damage. It's important to know everything you can about the system and how to

deploy it effectively."

Both the 12th TRS and 435th FTS displays include a GBU-31, Air Intercept Missile-9, AIM20, and the recent GBU-39.

However, the 12th TRS, known as the 12th TRS Munition Museum, also added

a GBU-12 Joint Direct Attack Munition to their lineup and includes large, blueprint-style drawings of aircraft.

The Munition Museum was initiated by Leif Erickson, 12th TRS IFF civilian simulator instructor. He began the project in the spring of 2017, inspired by some of the displays at the 435th FTS.

"The 435th FTS had an old AIM-9 and a GBU-31 in the squadron when I was still flying with them before I retired," Erickson said. "I thought our simulator hallway looked pretty big and empty."

Since the munitions are typically delivered in pairs, Erickson reached out to the 12th Maintenance Group Munitions Flight, which helped him acquire the matching GBU-31 from the 435th FTS.

"The sheet metal shop built a stand for us, and the next thing you know, we had a GBU-31 in the hallway," Erickson said.

Erickson said the process was lengthy, but he is grateful to those who helped make it possible.

"These inert weapons aren't mass-produced like the live things," said Patrick Fox, 12th MXG Munitions Flight chief.

"There's just not many around and makes it a little difficult to get."

With nine munitions held between both squadrons, students now have something tangible to learn from.

"The first time future fighter pilots get to put their hands on actual weaponry shouldn't be when they actually go out to fly their new fighter," Erickson said. "Our students should get to see these weapons up close here at IFF."

340th TFG names 'On the Spot Award' winner for April

By Tim Gantner

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master Sgt. Denise Salazar is a triple threat for the 340th Flying Training Group staff, but it's her uncanny ability to roll with the punches that sets her apart from her peers.

No one duty is the highest priority. Salazar's remarkable ability to comfortably balance a host of urgent tasks is evident in her every activity.

In March 2021, Salazar began her new role as the wing career advisor providing retentions, career counseling and officer affiliation bonus services.

Salazar vacated her previous position as the career development division chief but only on paper. With her replacement scheduled to arrive in mid-May, she knew she had a monster-sized task on her hands ... performing two roles at the same time.

But wait, a triple threat means three roles, right?

Salazar earned her triple threat badge managing the customer support section. She continues to provide critical oversight, development, and mentor team members.

Salazar's "franchise" player attitude has kept her teams flourishing for months with a calm and collected demeanor. Her leadership and self-accountability breed the kind of responsibility that fosters a culture of greatness.

The "On the Spot Award" is presented to highlight exceptional performance. Salazar was a textbook example of an awe-inspiring sight when she juggled various duties as wide as a city block. Everybody and their wingmen should strive to emulate the impressive performance that resulted in her being recognized for her contributions to the 340th FTG.



TIM GANTNER

Master Sgt. Denise Salazar, Undergraduate Flying Training program, was named the 340th Flying Training Group's "On the Spot" award winner for a second time in April 2021.

AFW2 announces Team Air Force for 2021 Warrior Games

By Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The Air Force Wounded Warrior, or AFW2, Program has announced the 2021 Air Force Warrior Games team.

A team of coaches and staff selected 45 primary and 15 alternates, a combination of active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen and veterans, after their 2021 Virtual Air Force Trials competition. The 45-person team will go on to compete at the Department of Defense Warrior Games in Orlando, Florida, Sept 12-22.

The DOD Warrior Games is a Paralympic-style competitive event featuring 12 different sports: track and field, cycling, swimming, rowing, powerlifting, shooting, archery, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, sitting volleyball and golf. U.S. service members who transitioned to veteran status within the preceding 12 months prior to the start of the DOD Warrior Games, will count as active duty service members.

The primary athletes are:

- » Tech. Sgt. Nicole Allbritton
- » Retired Senior Airman John Berry
- » Retired Master Sgt. Adam Boccher
- » Master Sgt. Shannon Cassinelli
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Kristina Coble
- » Major Daniel Corindia
- » Master Sgt. Amy Dare
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Antonio Del Vecchio
- » Master Sgt. Nicole Favuzza
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Larry Franklin
- » 1st Lt. Blaze Galardy
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Heather Gondek
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Chunte Gonzalez
- » Staff Sgt. Kevin Greene
- » Master Sgt. Kenneth Guinn
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Eric Heideman
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Marjorie Henkel
- » Retired Master Sgt. Roger Hopkins
- » Retired Lt. Col. Jason Howell
- » Retired Master Sgt. Chris Jachimiec
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Britini Jennie
- » Senior Airman Carly Johnson
- » Retired Senior Airman Caleb Jones

- » Retired Chief Master Sgt. Garrett Kuwada
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Christine Lucier
- » Master Sgt. Patrick Mackey
- » Col. Melchizedek "Kato" Martinez
- » Retired Master Sgt. Melissa Martinez
- » Tech. Sgt. Harry McClure
- » Retired Airman Pete Murphy
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Joseph Pate
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Preston Powers
- » Retired Master Sgt. Diana Romero
- » Staff Sgt. Daniel Ross
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. William Royster
- » Retired Tech. Sgt. Joshua Smith
- » Staff Sgt. Deanna Stanton
- » Retired Airman 1st Class Derek Starnes
- » Tech. Sgt. Raina Stroman
- » Retired Senior Airman Christian Vega
- » Retired Staff Sgt. Gregory Walker
- » Staff Sgt. Heather White
- » Retired Maj. Gregory Wierzbicki
- » Senior Master Sgt. Brian Williams
- » Retired Capt. Heather Wright

Alternate athletes are:

- » Retired Staff Sgt. Dexter Alejandro
 - » Retired Senior Airman Joanna Antoniuk
 - » Retired Staff Sgt. William Black
 - » Retired Master Sgt. Michael Broughman
 - » Staff Sgt. Brittany Clark
 - » Retired Master Sgt. Christy Curry
 - » Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Harrison
 - » Master Sgt. Jennifer Ibanez
 - » Tech. Sgt. Ronald James
 - » Retired Col. Tricia Kobberdahl
 - » Retired Master Sgt. Dan Leonard
 - » Staff Sgt. Ashley New
 - » Master Sgt. Douglas Ragone
 - » Retired Senior Airman Adrianna Ruark
 - » Retired Maj. Johana Sierra-Nunez
- Follow the action at <https://dodwarriorgames.com/> or on AFW2's social media sites on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. AFW2 will post updates throughout the days leading up to the competition with athlete profiles and information on upcoming competitions.