

JBSA

LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 14, 2021



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Charles Lohsandt and Staff Sgt. Tara Laramee with the U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity look on as Maj. Sean Lutmer, an ophthalmologist at Fort Benning, Georgia, tests the ophthalmic slit lamp at the Deployable Medical System Equipment for Training site at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

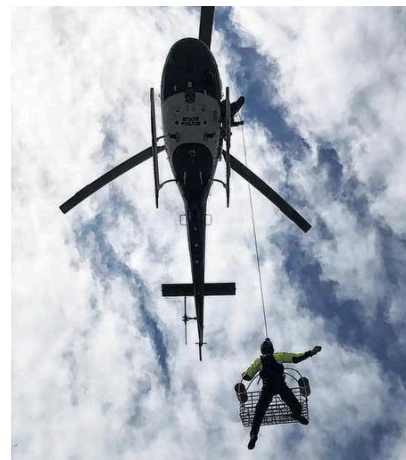
Army tests ophthalmic slit lamp at JBSA-Camp Bullis

Page 6



149th FW tests new jet washing robot

Page 13



Chaplain soars in rescue exercise

Page 17

DOD expands access to military exchanges

By DOD News

The Department of Defense announced the expansion of access to military exchanges as of May 1.

Coast Guard and DOD appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees are authorized to shop at military exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions.

Online exchange access will also be available for active and retired DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and

nonappropriated fund civilian employees by mid-October. This shopping access does not include the purchase of military uniforms, tobacco products or alcohol.

Previous in-store exchange access for DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees was limited to those on service agreements overseas (i.e., in foreign countries and the U.S. territories and possessions) and access was limited to overseas exchanges. The expansion will allow all DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees to shop in exchange stores in the United

States and the U.S. territories and possessions.

“Every shopper of the exchange helps improve the military community and the benefit for service members and their families,” said Patricia “Patty” Montes Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. “We welcome our DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees to take advantage of the convenience and familiarity of military exchanges. Shopping at our military exchanges is a quality of life experience that serves the

community in ways no other commercial entity does.”

Online exchange access will be available later this year for all active and retired DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees with a U.S. mailing address, including territories and possessions and APO and FPO addresses. Online exchanges are not permitted to ship to local addresses in foreign countries.

To learn more about military exchange access, visit the commissaries and exchanges webpage on the Military OneSource website.

Safety should be top priority for bicyclists at JBSA

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio safety officials are urging bicyclists to make safety a priority when riding around the installations so as to avoid accidents or injuries resulting from accidents.

When it comes to bicycling, whether it's to get around, exercise or enjoy time with the family, bicyclists should adhere to the rules of the road, said Rodolfo Ornelas, 502nd Air Base Wing Safety Office safety specialist.

Ornelas said those rules and regulations, as spelled out in Air Force Instruction 91-207, including observing stop signs, traffic lights, looking twice at intersections before proceeding and yielding to oncoming traffic at intersections and riding on the right side of the street or road.

He said it is important for bicyclists to stay alert at all times.

“The main causes of accidents are inattention,” Ornelas said. “Sometimes bicyclists will go through a stop sign or through a red light when oncoming traffic has the right away. Be aware of

“The main causes of accidents are inattention. Sometimes bicyclists will go through a stop sign or through a red light when oncoming traffic has the right away. Be aware of your surroundings and always look twice before going – left, right and left again – before you proceed through an intersection.”

Rodolfo Ornelas,
502nd Air Base Wing Safety Office safety specialist

your surroundings and always look twice before going – left, right and left again – before you proceed through an intersection.”

Ornelas said bicycle riders should not wear any earpiece, including ear pods or earphones, which would impede them from hearing any automobiles or motorcycles, including emergency vehicles that are on the road, especially if they are approaching the bicyclist from behind.

When making a turn, bicyclists should learn hand signals for turning left and right and when they are slowing down. A guide to these signals can be found at the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration website at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/8009-hand-signals.pdf>.

To let motorists know they are sharing the road with them, bicyclists should wear the proper protective equipment, including reflective vests and highly visible clothing, Ornelas said.

In addition, bicycles should be equipped with front and rear reflectors, which are visible at night.

Ornelas said he suggests riders use LED flashing lights that are affixed to the bike and make a red flickering, flashing motion while the bike is in motion, alerting motorists there is a bicycle on the roadway.

Bicyclists are required to wear helmets. Ornelas said riders should select a helmet that fits them properly, not too loose or too tight and in which the chin strap latches on properly.

He said for families going out on a ride, parents should check to make sure children are fitted with the proper protective equipment, including helmets and reflective vests, and should ride in residential areas to avoid high traffic areas.

Having a properly maintained bicycle is also important for rider safety, Ornelas said. Make sure the tires are inflated properly and nuts, bolts and rims are fastened properly as to where nothing is loose on the bike, preventing injuries or accidents to riders.

Also, bicycles should be stored in a garage, storage shed or put a cover over it to protect them from the weather and minimize rust to prevent deterioration.

Ornelas said bicyclists who do not adhere to the rules of the road could be given a warning or citation by JBSA security forces if caught in a violation.

For more information on bicycle safety, go to <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety>.

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

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the JBSA Legacy are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Air Force.

Published by EN Communities a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force under exclusive written contract with the 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.

Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

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 was wondering why JBSA-Fort Sam Houston has a mask mandate for entering the gate but JBSA-Randolph doesn't?

I thought it was a JBSA-wide policy that you have to wear a mask when coming onto the base. Plenty of Security Forces and Department of Defense police have told me along with others that you have to wear it to enter and they have signs at the gate.

I went last week to JBSA-Randolph and saw that no one was wearing the masks while entering. I went earlier this week again and saw the same thing so I asked one of the Security Forces if people had to wear masks while entering. He said, "No, you don't have to."

I would like to know why there are different rules for different bases. It doesn't make a lot of sense since we are a "joint base" and it doesn't seem fair either.

A. Thank you for your question on a very important issue. On Feb. 4, 2021, the Secretary of Defense directed the continuous wear of masks for everyone on military installations with few exceptions.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines include the wear of a mask anytime you cannot maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other people. Defenders at JBSA gates interact with approximately 30,000 people per day and do not have the ability to maintain at least six feet of separation from drivers and other personnel.

For those reasons, it is appropriate for Defenders and vehicle drivers (at a minimum) to wear a mask when interacting at the gates.

When the Secretary of Defense directive was issued, the 502nd Security Forces Group commander directed gate guards to inform all drivers of this requirement. However, that quickly proved to be a challenge, as it put the gate guards in the position to have to explain the requirement to most drivers, resulting in backed-up traffic and lengthy discussions.

Although the Department of Defense requirement and CDC guidelines exist, gate guards are no longer required to enforce it at the gates. However, gate guards at all JBSA installations always have the right to inform personnel about requirements and to



COURTESY GRAPHIC

enforce it as they feel appropriate to protect their own safety and health.

Thank you again for your question and for assisting us in protecting personnel and our critical missions.

Q. Now that the Health Protection Condition, or HPCON, has been lowered, when will guests be allowed at the JBSA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake without having to be in the same vehicle as the ID cardholder?

A. Thank you for your question. The requirement to have an authorized user with a valid DOD ID Card in each vehicle for entry into the JBSA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake is in compliance with established entry control procedures across JBSA.

Ensuring one authorized ID cardholder per vehicle provides for accurate monitoring and accountability for guests of authorized users.

The Jacobs Creek section of the JBSA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake is no longer open to the public in order to maximize the opportunities for authorized DOD patrons and their families/guests to enjoy the outstanding morale, resiliency, and outdoor recreation opportunities these facilities have to offer.

Thank you for your understanding and patronage.

Q. All around JBSA I have been seeing the "Taste of JBSA" advertised. I was wondering if this is compliant with the de-glamorization of alcohol in Air Force Instruction 34-219?

To me, it is irresponsible and inappropriate for the Force Support Squadron to be having an actual alcohol festival and promoting its usage.

The military is high stress and alcohol has been the answer for service members to cope with that stress for far too long.

Two of the bases on JBSA are for trainees and we should be focused on staying away from alcohol usage and teaching them other healthy habits. The instruction says we must make every effort to de-glamorize the use of alcohol and to discourage irresponsible use of it.

Could you please explain if I am taking it out of context?

A. Thank you for your question and concern about the JBSA community. The 502nd Force Support Squadron offers a wide range of programs to meet the diverse interests of JBSA team members of all ages, including some adult-only events.

Although Taste of JBSA does offer alcoholic beverage tastings, the focus of the event is to offer a fun and safe environment for eligible patrons 21 and older to enjoy live entertainment, games and social interaction.

This annual event also showcases the culinary skills and talents of our chefs from the JBSA Clubs featuring many signature and new menu items.

All appropriate levels of approval have been obtained, and the required signage, training and safety measures are followed in all Force Support Squadron facilities.

Events where alcoholic beverages are served are in accordance with AFI 34-219. In addition, signs will be posted to "Drink responsibly" and "Don't drink and drive" along with phone numbers for the "Be My Designated Driver" (1-877-823-6933) Program.

Nurse, Technician Week: Battle-tested, ready

By Shireen Bedi

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This time last year, as the world was trying to wrap its head around an unknown and unforgiving new enemy, Air Force nurses and medical technicians found themselves on the front lines of COVID-19.

Air Force nurses and technicians have remained battle-tested and ready for a fight like this. Saving lives amid insurmountable odds and in the face of unprecedented challenges is what Air Force nurses and technicians remain ready for. The COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on their incredible resilience and dedication to their fellow service members, their patients and their nation.

From May 6-12, the Air Force Medical Service recognized the continued contribution, sacrifice and dedication of its nurses and technicians. These Airmen continue to raise the bar on what it means to serve as an Air Force medic.

A short sample of some of the stories showcasing the work of Air Force nurses and technicians in the past year are highlighted below:

Deployed to nation hotspots

Nurses and technicians deployed to some of the hardest-hit areas to provide additional support in overrun hospitals. With short notice, nurses and technicians worked tirelessly alongside sister services and their civilian counterparts to provide critical support when and where the nation needed them.

Maj. Tynikka Houston, an operating room nurse with the 59th Surgical Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, deployed in May 2020 as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to New York Health Hospitals Jacobi. She was assigned to an intensive care unit there to care for COVID-19 patients.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JOHN R. WRIGHT

Airmen assigned to the 313th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron transfer a COVID-19 patient following the first-ever operational use of the Negatively Pressurized Conex to transport 12 patients aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, July 1, 2020. The NPC is the latest isolated containment chamber developed to transport up to 28 individuals with infectious diseases.

“We basically go wherever they need us,” she said.

When the Federal Emergency Management Agency requested additional medical support in North Dakota’s hospitals, critical care nurses primarily fulfilled that vital need.

“A short notice CONUS deployment tasking in support of the NORTHCOM combatant commander to fight a pandemic is unprecedented for this medical group,” said Col. Matthew Hanson, 96th Medical Group commander from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

“This time, we can’t shoot or even see the enemy. We will gown up in our personal protective equipment and do our best,” said Capt. Ronald Golemboski, a 96th Health Care Operations Squadron nurse, who had previously deployed to combat zones.

Many Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve medics battled COVID-19 in both their military and civilian roles. Staff Sgt. Thomas Massa, 192nd Medical Group Detachment 1 aerospace medical technician from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, has a full-time job, working as an emergency room medic at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Virginia. He also provided COVID-19 response support to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Department of Health.

“In Detachment 1, we are the people who dress up in hazmat suits and have gas masks on, but one of the things we always practice is putting on our Powered Air Purifying Respirators, or PAPRs,” Massa said. “The training became

useful when COVID-19 started, and we had to intubate more and more people to help them breathe. The medical staff at Riverside Regional all had to wear PAPRs. My experience really played a huge part in the COVID-19 response because I could be there to help doctors and nurses put on their PAPRs, something they’ve never had to do before.”

Maj. Telisha Johnson, chief nurse for the 13th Medical Group, D.C. Air National Guard, was among many Air Force medics who lead COVID-19 response efforts. She jumped at the call to coordinate with leadership and local organizations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

“First, I was deployed to the D.C. Department of Health to assist in planning an alternate care site and figuring out the

staffing situation where there was a medical surge amongst the hospitals,” Johnson said. “When we got to the alternate care site, I was responsible for not only training personnel [who] would be coming there from MedStar Health but also I was going to be the operations chief for the alternative site.”

Capt. Jennifer McGuigan became an Air Force Reserve critical care nurse at age 50 at the height of the pandemic and the need for additional medical support across the country was critical.

“The need for critical care nurses was highlighted during the response to COVID-19,” said Col. Sherry Hemby, Air Force Reserve Command’s command nurse and career field manager. “Many patients diagnosed with COVID-19 had difficulty breathing and were placed on ventilators to assist in their recovery. Critical care nurses, with their amazing attention to detail, were needed to watch every minute. They assessed changes in their patient’s conditions and reacted with the most skilled care. They pulled patients through the COVID crisis. They held the hands of their patients when their family members could not, encouraging and cheering their patients on to fight for recovery.”

Aeromedical evacuation crews took their capabilities into new territory by transporting COVID-19 patients, ensuring they deliver the same highly reliable care seen in the clinic. This is no easy task when it comes to mitigating the spread of a highly infectious respiratory disease in a confined aircraft. Amid the pandemic, nurses and technicians put their experience and training to the test when they flew with the Negatively Pressurized Conex for the first time on July 1, 2020.

“This was definitely not your typical patient movement mission,” said Maj. Benjamin Weaver, bioenvironmental

NURSE continues on 5

NURSE

From page 4

engineer and 10th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight NPC support team lead from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. “It was a long 22 hours for everyone involved, but the NPC and team performed exceptionally well to make it happen.”

Lt. Col. Penny Cunningham, Pacific Air Forces Command flight nurse, also noted the quick coordination that took place to execute the mission.

“This mission was a great display of how aeromedical evacuation operates, from our logistics team procuring personnel protective equipment kits for pilots and other personnel to ensuring crew bed-down and transportation was firmly established,” she said. “No matter what AOR we are in, we always have AE members that will support and ensure the mission and crew are taken care of.”

Air Force nurses and technicians have a long history of turning aircraft into a flying hospital, treating a wide range of patient challenges and ensuring service members can get to higher levels of care quickly.

“It’s amazing how quickly a non-scheduled mission can spin up and we are sent out the door ready to take on however many patients, any type of health issue from medical health and non-battle injuries to battle injuries,” said Maj. Christine Cardoza, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse. “Once in the [aeromedical evacuation] system, the patient’s survival rate, I believe, is more than 98%! Being a part of that is an honor in itself.”

Innovating to save lives

At both military treatment facilities and civilian hospitals, nurses and technicians had to quickly adapt to COVID-19, developing protocols and procedures to improve lifesaving capabilities and mitigate the spread within the clinic.

For Maj. Mark Gosling, a registered nurse, 81st Medical Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and his Simulation Laboratory Team, this meant modifying the design of their intensive care unit beds to optimize them for ventilated COVID-19 patients.

“The patient is always our number one focus, but this frame of thinking is even more important when you’re dealing with critical care from a COVID standpoint,” said Gosling. “When you’re using ventilator techniques on a patient,

they can’t tell you what they’re feeling, or if they’re uncomfortable. They’re completely dependent on you and how in-tune you are with their needs now and throughout their care. So we need to be thinking multiple steps ahead.”

Improving how staff responded to potential COVID-19 symptoms among their patient population fell into the hands of Airman 1st Class Tara Somers, a medical technician at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. She developed an algorithm for staff to use when patients called with possible symptoms, developed a telephone script, and initiated a patient tracker.

“(The process) also provides more complete care to our patients and makes them feel like they are being prioritized when they are feeling afraid in the middle of the pandemic,” said Somers. “I am the only technician in the clinic specifically taking on the task. This allows me to follow providers more closely, obtain more knowledge and understanding about the pandemic and the medical threats it presents to our patient population.”

Early in the pandemic, medical technicians with the 422nd Medical Squadron at RAF Croughton, England, noticed an issue with testing procedures that relied on seasonal flu procedures. These technicians pushed for clearer guidance to ensure they could obtain more accurate results. Because of medics like Tech. Sgt. Steve Zavala, 422nd Medical Squadron medical operations flight chief, and his fellow medical technicians, there were necessary improvements in COVID-19 testing procedures implemented across the Department of Defense.

Turning a corner

The rapid production and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines show a promising shift in the COVID-19 pandemic. Being on the front lines themselves, Air Force nurses and technicians were some of the first to line up to get vaccinated. They also delivered shots in arms to their fellow warfighters ensuring Air Force and Space Force missions continued uninterrupted. Many of these nurses and technicians also supported mass vaccination sites across the country.

“Volunteering to administer the vaccine to patients is important to me because people are dying from this disease,” said Senior Airman Ladrena Tucker, 59th Medical Operations Squadron Internal Medicine medical technician. “I want to help end this pandemic and the least I can do is administer the vaccine.”

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army tests ophthalmic slit lamp at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity, or USAMTEAC, conducted a customer test of an ophthalmic slit lamp at the Deployable Medical System Equipment for Training site at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis recently.

The USAMTEAC is part of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the test was conducted for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, or USAMMDA

The customer test was conducted in a simulated field hospital at the DMSET site, which represented the operational environment. The purpose of the test was to assess the effectiveness of the ophthalmic slit lamp, or OSL, in supporting the medical mission and the suitability of the OSL in a simulated operational environment. The OSL was operated by Soldiers having various medical military occupational specialties and areas of concentration.

The OSL is an instrument that consists of a high-intensity light source that can be focused to shine a thin sheet of light into the eye and is used in conjunction with a bio-microscope. Most people have seen an OSL while receiving an eye test.

The OSL facilitates an examination of the anterior segment and posterior segment of the human eye, which includes the eyelid,

“Overall, I think it’s a good piece of equipment; it’s consistent with the general practice standards. I wouldn’t have any issues with utilizing this equipment within our actual medical facilities, although what we’re testing this for is to be used in the field and in deployed environments.”

Lt. Col. Keith Schmidt, chief of optometry at the Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

sclera, conjunctiva, iris, natural crystalline lens, and cornea. The binocular slit lamp examination provides a stereoscopic magnified view of the system structure in detail that enables an anatomical diagnosis to be made for a variety of eye conditions.

“I think it’s a very good device, the test players are happy with it,” said Charles Lohsandt, USAMTEAC Test Officer and Equipment Specialists. “The lamp has been pretty much standard in



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Col. Keith Schmidt, Chief of Optometry at the Madigan Army Medical Center, conducts a test of the Ophthalmic Slit Lamp while Staff Sgt. Tara Laramée, a Test Officer with the U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity takes notes.

design since the beginning. They just upgraded the technology compared to the one used in the field right now.

“This OSL goes from a standard light bulb to an LED which requires less power, lasts longer, and is brighter,” Lohsandt said. That’s a big upgrade, the test players like the LED and the actual capability they have for fine-tuning the light and simpler field maintenance.”

Lt. Col. Keith Schmidt, chief of optometry at the Madigan

Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, had an opportunity to conduct a hands-on test of the OSL.

“Overall, I think it’s a good piece of equipment; it’s consistent with the general practice standards,” Schmidt said. “I wouldn’t have any issues with utilizing this equipment within our actual medical facilities, although what we’re testing this for is to be used in the field and in deployed environments. Ideally were concerned with

its durability and its portability in an austere location such as a combat support hospital.”

After the customer test, USAMTEAC will provide an abbreviated operational report to USAMMDA, assisting them in the acquisition decision-making process. USAMMDA will review the results and determine if additional tests are required before finalizing the procurement process and any potential field deployments.

Regional Health Command-Central welcomes new commanding general

By Karla L. Gonzalez

REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND-CENTRAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston welcomed Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby as their new commanding general and said farewell to Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter during a change of command ceremony May 5 at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum amphitheater.

During her 10 months as commander, Harter served during what she called, “one of the most challenging years in Army Medicine’s recent years.”

The RHC-C spent nearly 2.2 million working hours in testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 patients. That includes the administration of more than 260,000 COVID-19 vaccines and more than 600,000 tests processed in labs across the region. The RHC-C also deployed 425 Soldiers as urban and vaccine augmentees to help support the whole-of-nation response to combat the pandemic.

“It has truly been the efforts of these command teams in the field who are responsible for this Region’s tremendous success and our RHC-C staff’s unwavering mission execution,” Harter said. “It has been amazing to watch strategic vision and innovation in the making as we ensured Army medical readiness and ready medical forces for the Army, the senior commanders from TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command), FORSCOM (Forces Command), Army Futures Command, Army Material Command, ARNORTH (U.S. Army North) and ARSOUTH (U.S. Army South) while simultaneously caring for our beneficiaries and



BRIAN J. VALENCIA

Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby offers remarks after taking command of the Regional Health Command-Central during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 5.

sustaining the COVID-19 fight.”

During his remarks, Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, the U.S. Army Surgeon General and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, praised Harter for her leadership and selfless service.

“You’ve led the command with professional leadership excellence. You’ve built synergistic teams that have served as combat multipliers to readiness,” Dingle said.

“She’s a humble servant, a tremendous leader that does not seek the limelight. She just wants to serve and lead and give that credit to her soldiers,” he added. “Wendy, you set historical standards as this region’s commanding general. I

thank you for your servant leadership and what you have done and what you mean to Army Medicine.”

Dingle then welcomed Bagby as the new leader and shared confidence in his ability to lead the region.

“He is ready to lead this command. He knows how to build partnerships between various commands and Army senior leaders. The Army Medicine enterprise would not be or have its success without your talents and your leadership,” Dingle said.

“I charge you to build upon the Regional Health Command-Central’s azimuth of success,” he said. “I challenge you to continue to lead with

professional leadership excellence. Build the synergistic teams like you always have, and I know that you always will. You’re going from one crown jewel to a bigger crown jewel as you lead this region.”

Bagby, who comes to the region after serving as the commander of Brooke Army Medical Center, thanked Harter for her efforts as the RHC-C commander.

“I want to thank you for paving a remarkable road to ensure the success of this region,” Bagby said. “And I pledge to you I will build upon the success that you have started at Regional Health Command-Central and that we

“This year, just like last year, is going to continue to bring us unprecedented challenges as we battle through COVID-19, but I know with this group of leaders, we are going to make the extraordinary possible and the difficult things look easy.”

Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby, incoming commander for U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central

will continue to lead the way in Army Medicine in support of the Army and the joint warfighter mission.”

He also accepted the challenges presented by Dingle.

“This year, just like last year, is going to continue to bring us unprecedented challenges as we battle through COVID-19, but I know with this group of leaders, we are going to make the extraordinary possible and the difficult things look easy. As we continue to conquer through and battle through the COVID-19 environment, we’ll ensure the success of the mission, the enduring mission to sustain the fighting strength.

“We are poised and ready to execute as a ready, reformed, reorganized, responsive and relevant team in support of Army Medicine, and I couldn’t be more proud to be here at this time to help lead this team through this mission,” Bagby said.

BAMC Army nurse singled out for national honor

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Army nurse at Brooke Army Medical Center has received national recognition for her commitment to critically ill patients and their families in the midst of a global health crisis.

Lt. Col. DeAnna Hutchings, BAMC's chief of critical care, is one of 18 nurses — and the only military nurse — to receive the 2021 Circle of Excellence award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Hutchings is also one of only two nurses recognized in Texas.

"It's incredibly humbling," she said. "I work with so many amazing medical professionals and support personnel who work incredibly hard and deserve recognition. It's a surreal feeling to be singled out for this honor."

The Circle of Excellence honors nurses who exemplify excellence in high-acuity and critical care nursing practice, according to the association's release. Hutchings was nominated by her BAMC colleagues: Lt. Col Trisha Bielski, Karriemah Munson and Nadia Perez.

"Lt. Col. Hutchings lays down her heart and soul for the critical care mission at BAMC and the patients we serve," said Munson, assistant clinical nurse officer in charge of 3T. "She is selfless in her care and gives no percent daily without reservation. I wish there were more people in the world like her."

Hutchings' leadership agrees. "DeAnna is extremely deserving of this award," said Army Lt. Col. Jody Brown, deputy commander for inpatient services. "A wildly driven and focused leader, DeAnna is dedicated to critical care nursing and wholeheartedly invested in pursuing excellence at all levels. I couldn't be more proud



JASON W. EDWARDS

U.S. Army Lt. Col. DeAnna Hutchings (left), Chief, Critical Care Nursing Services, and Karriemah Munson (right), assistant clinical nurse officer in charge, 3T Medical Intensive Care Unit, review patient records at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston April 8.

of her accomplishment!"

A self-proclaimed Air Force brat, Hutchings knew she wanted to follow in her father's military footsteps at an early age. However, a career in medicine was not on her radar until she was selected for an ROTC scholarship at the University of Central Arkansas.

"I enjoyed science, but hadn't considered nursing prior," she said. "But it definitely sounded interesting."

After earning her bachelor's degree in nursing, Hutchings's active duty service started in September 2003, as did the start of her long-term service at BAMC. Upon her

commissioning, Hutchings became her family's first female military member and one of her family's first college graduates.

Hutchings' first assignment was at BAMC on ward 2E, "but I was only there for two weeks before I was deployed to Iraq," she said.

Hutchings returned home to serve at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center, followed by several months on BAMC's ward 2N. After assignments in Hawaii and Maryland, Hutchings taught for two years at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence prior to returning to BAMC in 2017. The former

officer in charge of ward 3T since 2018, Hutchings was selected as chief of critical care in November 2020.

While her stateside assignments offered invaluable experience, Hutchings cites a temporary duty assignment in Rwanda in 2019 as key to her career development. "It is an amazing experience to be able to work in another country's medical facility, share best practices and care for local nationals," she said.

In her current position, Hutchings manages the day-to-day operations for five intensive care units and two progressive care units. "My job

"For me, this place isn't just work. I have awesome coworkers, a great team, and the memories of the people I love are still here. I am honored and proud to serve at BAMC."

Lt. Col. DeAnna Hutchings,
Brooke Army Medical Center
chief of critical care

is to ensure patient care far exceeds the expectations," she said.

Hutchings also oversees the Rapid Response Program and has served on the COVID-19 working group since the start of the pandemic.

"Long before COVID-19 was here, we knew we had to be prepared for a pandemic, and had proposed to make ward 3S an isolated COVID-19 unit," she said. "It was gratifying to see the plan come to fruition quickly and efficiently and to know that we were ready to react when needed. None of it would have been possible without everyone working together."

After many years at BAMC, Hutchings continues to hold the organization in high esteem.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else if I was sick," said the mother of five. "I delivered my children here. My uncle was treated here, and my mom passed away here. The care throughout has been truly exceptional.

"For me, this place isn't just work," she added. "I have awesome coworkers, a great team, and the memories of the people I love are still here. I am honored and proud to serve at BAMC."

Program provides legal services for survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual assault

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual assault can seek legal assistance through a pilot program at Joint Base San Antonio specializing in protecting their rights and guiding them through the legal process.

The Interpersonal Violence Victims' Legal Services Pilot Program, or IPV, provides legal services to members of the military community who are survivors of dating, domestic or workplace violence or sexual assault.

The program is open to all active duty Airmen and Guardians who are stationed at JBSA if the offender was subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or UCMJ, at the time of the offense and at the time services are requested. Dependents, Reservists, Guardsmen and civilian employees may be able to receive services, depending on circumstances.

Interpersonal violence cases include those in which the intentional use of violence and power injures a victim physically and psychologically.

The violence is perpetrated by someone the victim knows and has a personal relationship with, an intimate partner, a co-worker or in the case of domestic violence, a parent or someone who lives in the same household.

Staff Sgt. Donald Guy, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston special victims' paralegal, said military members can make an appointment to seek legal services through the IPV program by contacting the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Special Victims' Counsel Office at 210-221-3796 or 850-404-9101.

Appointments can also be conducted via Zoom teleconference on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon; and Thursday, 10-11 a.m., using meeting ID 729 3835 5548, passcode IPVPIlot.

At JBSA-Lackland, IPV program appointments can be conducted via Zoom Monday-Friday, from 11 a.m. to noon, using meeting ID 923 4573 3456, passcode walk-ins, or by contacting the Department of the Air Force Special Victims' Division special victims' paralegal at 210-842-0890.

Guy said the appointments provide qualifying survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual assault with a one on one consultation with a special victims' counsel, who provides confidential legal advice, informs survivors of their rights under the law and provides information and referral to victims' support services.

Capt. Celene Delice, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph Special Victims' Counsel, said a special victims' counsel is an advocate for the survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual assault who provide

guidance and help protect the rights of the survivors throughout the legal process.

As a survivor seeks legal options, Delice said as a special victims' counsel she can provide them advice on the investigative and prosecutorial stages of their case and, for sexual assault victims, represent them during interviews and hearings conducted by military or civilian law enforcement authorities and during a trial, if needed, making sure their rights are protected every step of the way.

In addition, Delice said she can help clients of the IPV program with other services, such as referring them to other legal representation and other supporting agencies if needed.

The IPV program also accepts referrals of survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual assault from the victim witness assistance program coordinator with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston 502nd Force Support Group Legal Office and sexual assault response coordinators or victim advocate from the JBSA Sexual Assault Prevention Response program.

JBSA is one of 10 Air Force installations across the U.S. that are participating in the IPV program, whose objective is to expand legal services and representation to more military personnel and community members who seek it.

Air Force transitions from CVR Teams to more secure systems

By Tech. Sgt. Nicole King

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS

Beginning June 15, Commercial Virtual Remote (CVR) Teams will no longer be an option within the Air Force, and all information stored in that system will go away. As the CVR environment goes away, the Air Force network version of Microsoft Teams — a separate application with slightly different capabilities — will be enhanced to be more like CVR.

The most noticeable difference between the two versions of Teams for users will be in how they log in. CVR Teams uses a name and password, while AFNet Teams is common access card-enabled, making it more secure. AFNet Teams has also gone by the names Cloud Hosted Enterprise Services (CHES) Teams and Microsoft Office 365 Teams.

“CVR was a temporary solution adopted in response to the need to telework during the COVID-19 crisis,” said Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Capra, Enterprise Mission Support section chief within the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Communications Directorate. “It is an incredible tool and has filled the need to collaborate outside the office for many Airmen, but we do have other more secure tools to get the job done.”

People who have information stored in the CVR environment will need to download all files and information they want to continue to have access to before the June 15 deadline. Users can find a quick guide for how to save their content on the CVR Hub when they log in to the CVR environment. After the transition, there will be no backups or ways to retrieve data from CVR.

“Nothing from CVR will be

transferred or backed up,” Capra said. “After June 15, all data on CVR will be erased at the direction of the Defense Department chief information officer and U.S. Cyber Command commander. This is why users should be backing up their files, meeting recordings, chats and anything else that resides on the CVR environment now.”

There will still be many options for Airmen to communicate after the transition away from the CVR environment. Wickr RAM, Zoom gov, WebEx and Mattermost are other paid services units may use to communicate.

AFNet Teams will be accessible through the Desktop Anywhere application that can be used on personal computers. This program is available to both Reserve and active duty Airmen and civilians and allows access to a virtual desktop with all of the capabilities of being on the Air Force network.

502nd ABW members help celebrate veteran's 100th birthday

By Kathy Salazar

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 502d Air Base Wing joined the Alamo Honor Flight in celebrating with the 100th birthday of Pearl Harbor Survivor retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Platt at a local restaurant May 5.

"It felt great to share such a special day with Kenneth Platt," said Brian E. Hoffman, 502nd ABW vice director. "I loved hearing about his life and seeing the energy he brought to every moment. Both of my grandparents were World War II veterans and I felt like I was connecting with them again as I spoke with Mr. Platt."

"Celebrating the 100th birthday of Sergeant Platt was an incredible milestone and an absolute honor to be a part of," said Senior Airman Margaret Mistretta, 502nd Installation Support Group judicial punishment paralegal.

"I was glad to meet living history," said Airman 1st Class Jalen Michael Kinkela, 502nd Installation Support Group Judge Advocate military justice paralegal.

Platt joined the Army just shy of his



KATHY SALAZAR

Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing, along with members of the Alamo Honor Flight and family members join Pearl Harbor survivor and Air Force veteran Kenneth Platt during his 100th birthday celebration May 5.

16th birthday. He went to the recruiter's office in support of a buddy and ended up joining the service instead of his friend. After leaving the Army, he joined

the Air Force, following in his brother's footsteps.

By his brother's advice, he told the recruiter he was an aircraft mechanic,

which they quickly found out he was not. However, Pratt learned the trade and served in the Air Force for 20 years.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Platt was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii with the 24th Division. He was asleep in this bunk when the invasion at Wheeler Field started right across the road.

The Alamo Honor Flight started having a monthly breakfast in November 2010 after an honor flight where everyone was saying their goodbyes.

"It seemed so sad," said Russell Minor, Alamo Honor Flight staff member. "It was decided that we would continue to visit once a month during breakfast."

The Alamo Honor Flight has met every month until April of last year due to COVID-19 concerns and started meeting again just last month. This is the fourth veteran they have celebrated their 100th birthday for, with the first one in 2016.

"As an Air Force member actively serving our country, having the opportunity to be surrounded by so many living legends from the greatest generation reminiscing about their war stories will be a memory I will cherish for years to come," Mistretta said.

ARNORTH members complete security workforce certification

By Spc. Ashlind House

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The triad of the U.S. Army North mission encompasses Homeland Defense, Theater Security Cooperation and Defense Support of Civil Authorities. Recently, members of ARNORTH's G3 completed the Security Cooperation Workforce certificate program to enhance the TSC mission.

Kayla Wagner, a member of the G3 Security Cooperation Division Plan team working on long-range security cooperation planning with Mexico and Canada, recently finished the SCW Certification Program along with five of her coworkers.

The Security Cooperation Workforce is comprised of Department of Defense civilians and military personnel in positions that interact and support those who interact with foreign country's security institutions.

These interactions help build and develop the security capabilities of allied and friendly nations for self-defense and multinational operations. They also

provide the armed forces with access to foreign countries during peacetime or contingency operations, and also builds relations that promote specific U.S. security interests.

"The education provided by the SCW Certification provides me with a holistic SCW education and toolkit to accomplish our Command Theater Security Cooperation mission in support of the ARNORTH Theater Strategy objective to remain the land-based security partner-of-choice, by building regional security and increasing levels of interoperability with our allies and partners," said Wagner, when asked how this program helps her support the ARNORTH mission.

Wagner not only felt that this program helped support the ARNORTH mission, but also the Security Cooperation Workforce. This program provides them with education and training to not only help execute their current mission but also build a set of skills to enable them to execute future missions.

The SCW Certification program consists of different levels, basic,

intermediate, advanced, and expert. Wagner, Rich Berry, Dave Mantiply, Dave Morrison and Jose Velazquez were among the first in the Army to complete the basic level and were recognized by the Assistant Secretary of the Army as well as by the U.S. Army North commanding general.

"Congress mandated to the Department of Defense, that they do a better job of professionalizing those members of the Department of Defense that deal with security cooperation which is primarily working with foreign countries as allies and partners," Wagner said.

This program helps all levels of the military and civilian workforce have a broad understanding of the work they are doing, starting with the basic level and working all the way up to the advanced level of the program.

"For the civilian security cooperation workforce, in particular, the SCW Certification Program fills a gap in providing SCW civilians with formalized SC training and education in their career field so they can practice SCW at parity

with their uniformed counterparts," Wagner said. "By standardizing and professionalizing the SCW training and education, we are increasing the overall readiness of the U.S. Army to execute the critical security cooperation mission."

Wagner believes that this course could benefit other positions outside of security cooperation because there are many different divisions that make up ARNORTH that take part in the security aspect of the day-to-day mission.

Within the last five years, they have created a career field in the civilian workforce. The SCW program is meant to get the civilian workforce more professionalized training to deal with foreign partners.

"Unlike most other training, it provides a larger perspective to our National Military Strategy than just what you're doing in your office," Wagner said.

Wagner had many takeaways from this course but her biggest takeaway was the great effort at standardizing and formalizing training across the security cooperation enterprise.

LACKLAND



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

Defenders with the 433rd Security Forces Squadron prepare to load simulated injured patients on an Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Annex May 6 during the 433rd Airlift Wing's Exercise Alamo Bravo. During this portion of the exercise, the defenders were working with 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technicians on simulated convoy operations.

Exercise Alamo Bravo tests Alamo Wing readiness

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing conducted Exercise Alamo Bravo, a deployment readiness training event, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland May 3-7.

The exercise enabled leadership to assess its Reserve Citizen Airmen's deployment and readiness capabilities, so units within the wing can determine strengths and areas of improvement.

"It's been a long time since we did an exercise of this magnitude, so we're knocking a lot of the rust off, but we're going to continue on so we can get better," said Col. Terry W. McClain, 433rd AW commander. "It's been great because everyone has stepped up. And even though it's not fun, they have embraced it doing the best they can in a

not-so-good situation."

The exercise covered many different aspects of deployment readiness that included deployment processing, deployment to location, chemical and hostile attacks, medical attention in the field, vehicle convoys, forward deployment to new a location and redeployment back to home station.

Day one started with the out-processing element of a deployment. The Citizen Airmen were processed on a simulated flight to a fictitious location. Upon arrival, the wing established security along with base operations.

The 433rd Security Forces Squadron members who deployed during the exercise were immediately tested upon arrival to the site and were up for the challenge.

"All the capabilities that we have in

security forces, my teammates and I have had the opportunity to go hands-on and actually do the mission set," said Staff Sgt. Rick Cardona, 433rd Security Forces Squadron fire team leader. "This is not like a typical unit training assembly weekend, we're actually out here getting our hands dirty."

After two days at the training site, the scenario directed the deployed location to become uninhabitable. This forced the wing to relocate to an alternate location.

The further evaluation of the wing's capability to establish an alternate base of operation continued to highlight the necessity of the training.

"The overall significance of doing this training is to essentially prepare you for when you do deploy," said Staff Sgt. Taylor Rauser, 433rd Force Support Squadron personnel specialist. "We are

in the military and we do get tasked to deploy, so that's the biggest thing about this exercise; it's to fully prepare you."

In the end, all the hours and meetings it took to plan and execute the training, proved beneficial to determining the wing's overall mission-ready posture.

"We came together as a wing, both on the planning side and the on the exercise-player side and we were happy to know that everyone knows their job well," said Master Sgt. Jaime Ortega, 433rd AW readiness exercise planner, inspector general. "The planning stage was a lengthy one that took several months of planning, almost 60 planners, many challenges that came at us, literally up until the night before, but we were able to overcome everything and work as a team."



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN MANCUSO

A robotic arm designed to autonomously wash an F-16 Fighting Falcon is demonstrated at the 149th Fighter Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 28. The robot is a one-of-a-kind machine built, programmed and tested at the 149th FW as a proof of concept for the Air Force.

149th Fighter Wing uses innovative new jet washing robot

By Senior Airman Ryan Mancuso

149TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A new Gunfighter has arrived at the 149th Fighter Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland ... a jet washing robot.

The new robot was programmed and tested at the 149th Fighter Wing under the AFWERX innovation initiative and was designed and built as a proof of concept to potentially be rolled out Air Force-wide.

The robot is able to fully wash an F-16 in an hour, a job that typically takes a team of four people up to six hours. Total aircraft downtime is also reduced from two days down to one.

Typically, an F-16 would receive a wash every 180 days to prevent corrosion and prolong the lifespan of the airframe.

Cleaning removes any built-up dirt and grime, which includes grease, oil, and hydraulic fluids, as well as soot from the engines, smoke from firing the gun and launching weapons, and environmental debris.



An F-16 Fighting Falcon is washed by a brand new autonomous system that was designed and demonstrated at the 149th Fighter Wing on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 28. An aircraft is washed every 180 days to prevent corrosion and prolong the lifespan of the airframe.



The new robotic system is part of an AFWERX innovation initiative as a proof of concept to potentially be rolled out across the Air Force. The machine can do in one hour what it typically take a team of three to four people two days to do.

JBSA-Lackland Fisher House recovering from setbacks

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For 30 years, the Fisher Houses across the country has been a home away from home for military families whose service member is receiving care at a military treatment facility.

Currently, the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Fisher House is recuperating after the double whammy of COVID-19 and February's winter storms.

Philip Harralson, JBSA-Lackland's Fisher House lodging manager, said the occupancy rate at the house had to drop because of the pandemic.

"Prior to the pandemic, we were operating at around 70% occupancy rate, serving nearly 600 families a year. During COVID-19, the occupancy dropped down to 18%, and last year, we only served 40 families," he said. "This year, so far, our trend is 4% occupancy, and that's due to a mix of COVID-19 and storm damage. We had all three buildings down for almost two

months. All of that really, really hurt our ability to serve the public."

Founded in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, the Fisher House Foundation has served more than 413,000 families since its inception. Qualifying service members include active duty, veteran, retiree, National Guard, and Reserve members who live more than 40 miles from the military healthcare facility where they will be recuperating or receiving care.

The average stay at a Fisher House is nine days, but depending on the patient's progress, families could stay at Fisher House for months or years, Harralson said.

Any family member is welcome to sojourn there, including service dogs.

"With the pandemic starting to get under control, occupancy restrictions are loosening, but there are still many obstacles to overcome before the house's doors can be opened wide again," he said.

Two Fisher Houses in San Antonio sustained



THOMAS A. CONEY

Founded in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, the Fisher House Foundation has served more than 413,000 families since its inception. Qualifying service members include active duty, veteran, retiree, National Guard, and Reserve members who live more than 40 miles from the military healthcare facility where they will be recuperating or receiving care.

considerable damages from the winter storms.

"Initially, two houses were completely down," Harralson said. "We've gotten some

water lines repaired, and JBSA civil engineers came out and made a repair on a hot water line that burst."

In a third house, fire

suppression system damage caused the bathroom ceiling to cave in, he said.

"There is water damage along the molding and baseboards, on the furniture, and in the kitchen," he said. "Additionally, water leaked into the walls, damaging the murals in the child-friendly areas."

The storm also destroyed much of the plant life on the grounds.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the JBSA-Lackland Fisher House can call 210-671-6037.

Harralson said his favorite Fisher House quote is located in a wooden gazebo located on the JBSA property.

"Where there is a military, there is a Fisher House. Where there is a Fisher House, there will always be caring, warmth, security, and compassion."

Zachary Fisher proclaimed these values as one of the missions of Fisher House before he passed away.

"That's what we do every day," Harralson said. "We've just gotta get back to doing it!"

433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. Monet Villacorte

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Deborah Deja took command of the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland May 1.

Col. James Miller, 433rd Operations Group commander, presided over the ceremony and spoke of his confidence in Deja to further develop the 433rd AES in her new role.

"Getting Deborah to come and join us is an amazing thing," Miller said. "She'll be able to help us through how we transition and train."

Miller also highlighted the 433rd AES and their continued support of their

mission requirements.

"It's our greatest commitment because we are getting to serve our own citizens," Miller said. "The comfort that people get knowing you're there gives them a little more spirit that you're going to take care of them."

During the ceremony, Deja expressed how excited she was to be back in San Antonio while also serving and leading at the 433rd AES.

"I'm so happy to be back home," Deja said. "This is the flagship of the aeromedical evacuation community, in both active, guard, and the Reserve. That is us."

"I want to continue to build and improve upon the 433rd AES and make it the best that it can possibly be," Deja added. "I look forward to serving you all."



STAFF SGT. MONET C. VILLACORTE

Col. Deborah Deja (left), 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander, speaks at her assumption of command ceremony for the 433rd AES May 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

59th MDW Airman wants to 'make a difference that impacts the world'

By Airman 1st Class
Melody Bordeaux

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"She is the heart and soul of this operation," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin White, 59th Medical Wing COVID-19 vaccine coordinator. "Master Sgt. Latanceia Godfrey is the first one here and she's the one that gets the operation started every day."

Godfrey, the 59th MDW COVID-19 vaccine clinic noncommissioned officer in charge, coordinates more than 30 Airmen and civilians for the COVID-19 vaccine operation daily.

Aside from assigning manpower and personnel she also works alongside the Airmen in the vaccine clinic. Being a leader to her means guiding, mentoring and protecting her Airmen.

"I have always prided myself in being there," Godfrey said. "Being present in my Airmen's lives, for my leadership and myself, with the main focus in mentoring and leading the way for others."

Being a part of an operation that focuses on vaccinating patients against the virus can be both rewarding and challenging.

"One of the challenges I've had to face is turning people away," Godfrey said. "That is one of the worst things I've had to do because we had to stay within the guidelines."

Understanding the wait to be vaccinated may be challenging for patients. However, Godfrey handles conflict professionally and empathically while protecting her Airmen.

"When we first started administering vaccines, a patient had an appointment, he brought his wife with him, who was not eligible for the vaccine," Godfrey said. "He wanted to see if he could get her a walk-in appointment, but couldn't."

The patient became agitated, but Godfrey handled the situation professionally and with empathy.

Godfrey is known for her professional and yet happy personality with everything she does.

"I try to handle conflict as professionally as I possibly can and with a smile," Godfrey said. "I rarely have bad days. I say I have bad moments. I'll take the brunt of conflict for everybody who's



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

Master Sgt. Latanceia Godfrey, 59th Medical Wing COVID-19 vaccine clinic noncommissioned officer in charge, tracks how many patients receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the atrium at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 12.

working on my team and protect my Airmen."

In the face of any challenge, Godfrey isn't afraid or intimidated by anything.

"She's fearless when it comes to communicating with a variety of people," White said. "It's something I greatly appreciate in a leader."

Not only does Godfrey handle stressful situations professionally, but she doesn't allow anything to weigh her down. People she works with ask her how she is always in a great mood. She makes everyone feel motivated no matter how much she's multitasking.

"Master Sgt. Godfrey makes me feel respected whenever I come into work by not just asking how I am in a cliché manner, but going into detail about why I feel that way and it deepens my respect for her along with my trust in her ability," said Airman 1st Class Gabriel Poling, 59th Medical Support Squadron health administrator. "She also takes on more work to allow my co-workers and me to feel less stressed during busy times of the day. Then stays humble when she gets recognized for the work she is doing."

Regardless of the challenges, Godfrey

feels that she is offering hope to patients by helping them receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I had this guy, he could barely write his name," Godfrey said. "He asked me to help fill out his paperwork. He was 102 years old. I said, 'Oh wow, you know what sir, I think you've been the oldest patient I've had in here, so you're going to be my VIP today.' So I escorted him down to the vaccination room where I waited with him. As we made our way to the first floor he said, 'I'm so glad I got this vaccine. I'm 102 years old and anything that I can do to get a couple more hours on this Earth is a win for me and I thank you so much for what you're doing.'"

"This level of patient care and attention to detail goes a long way. Godfrey's unwavering dedication to the efforts of the COVID-19 vaccine clinic comes from personal experience with the deadly virus when earlier this year the pandemic hit too close to home for her.

"My mom contracted COVID-19 in January," Godfrey said. "She is a two-time breast cancer survivor, so this is not her first rodeo of being sick. She got quarantined on her birthday and we

made a joke about it, but then a few days later I got a phone call saying that she was admitted to the emergency room due to COVID-19 complications."

Godfrey's mother is doing better every day but still has health complications months later.

"To this day my mom is still walking around with an oxygen tank and she has to stay on this oxygen until she's fully recovered," said Godfrey.

Knowing how dangerous this virus is, Godfrey continues to volunteer because she can help others and her family.

"Being a part of this operation, for me, is to ensure no one else has to go through what my family went through," Godfrey said. "If something happened to her, my world would never be the same again. I'm hoping by providing this vaccine to as many people as we can, that one day we will be able to return to the way things were or as close to it as possible.

"My youngest daughter told me that every day I go to work, I'm helping to save lives, making my heart swell. I feel like I'm truly helping to make a difference that impacts the world. How cool is that?"

New household goods 7-day spread date policy gives customers greater control, certainty

By Staff Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez

ASSISTANT NCOIC, PERSONAL PROPERTY PROCESSING OFFICE

The U.S. Transportation Command's Defense Personal Property Management Office, or DPMO, has implemented the new 2021 Business Rule "Pickup Spread Dates" in accordance with USTRANSCOM Personal Property Advisory No. 21-0030A.

The use of spread dates was introduced to provide customers greater control and certainty when scheduling personal property shipments. This rule is applied to household goods, unaccompanied baggage, and non-temporary storage shipments with pick-ups scheduled on and/or after May 15, 2021.

Members will select a 7-day calendar spread for when they want their household goods picked up. Although the pickup date is inside the pickup spread date window, the pack date(s) will immediately come before the pickup and may be before the pickup spread date window. The weight determines how many pack days are authorized.

The Frequently Asked Questions listed below further clarify the policy.

Q. What are "Spread Dates"? Why is this a new rule?

A. "Spread Dates" refer to the window of seven calendar days, within which your moving company must pick up your shipment. We have included the use of spread dates to provide more certainty for customers when scheduling their move.

Q. Does this new rule apply to all shipments?

A. No. The use of spread dates is being incorporated into some elements of the Defense Personal Property Program. For the 2021 moving season, the rule will apply to most household goods and unaccompanied baggage shipments.

The rule does not apply to "short-fuse" shipments (shipments scheduled on very short noticed during peak season); shipments arranged under Direct-Procurement Method, or DPM, contracts, such as local moves or student baggage; or non-temporary storage shipments. Talk with your counselor to ensure you understand the rules associated with your shipment type.

Q. How are spread dates calculated? Do I have to do anything special to establish my spread dates?

A. Your spread date window is calculated from the preferred pick-up date you list in Defense Personal



Property System, or DPS, when scheduling your move.

The 7-day spread is always after your preferred pick-up date, not before. For example, if you list June 1 as your preferred pick-up date, your moving company is required to schedule your pick-up between June 1 and June 7.

Q. When you say pick-up date, what exactly does that mean? Is that the same thing as my pack-out dates?

A. Your pick-up date is the day your moving company physically removes your belongings from your home. Your pack-out dates — the day(s) your moving company will be in your home to pack your belongings — will always come before your pick-up date. This is an important point, and one to keep in mind while scheduling your move.

Q. Does this rule change guarantee I will get the exact moving dates I want? Can I do anything to improve my chances of getting the dates I want?

A. No, this rule change does not address the program's capacity constraints (which are particularly acute during the summer months). It does, though, provide more certainty over your moving dates once your shipment has been awarded to a moving company.

You can improve your chances of getting moving dates that best work for you by contacting your transportation office to schedule your shipment as soon as you receive your PCS orders.

Q. How long will it take for my moving company to confirm my pick-up date?

A. Your moving company must confirm the pick-up date with you — in writing — within three calendar days of accepting your shipment. It's important to note spread dates do not apply to all shipment types. Talk with your counselor to ensure you understand the rules associated with your shipment.

Q. What happens if I don't hear from my moving company? What should I do?

A. Contact your transportation office if you have not heard from the moving company within five business days of your start date for the spread date. Don't wait!

Q. Weekends, and sometimes holidays, are included in this 7-day window. Do I have to accept a pick-up date on a weekend or a holiday?

A. No, you don't. The inclusion of spread dates does not change the long-standing rule that prevents moving companies from scheduling a move on a weekend or holiday without the customer's consent.

Q. I would like to have my shipment picked up on a weekend or holiday. Am I allowed to request a weekend or holiday pick-up?

A. Weekend and holiday pick-ups are atypical and approved on a case-by-case basis. While weekends and holiday requests may be accommodated in some instances, we recommend moving on a weekday to ensure you have access to the full range of government and industry resources. Discuss this with your transportation office when you schedule your shipment.

Q. Can the moving company change my date once it's confirmed?

A. Dates should not change without your approval. If your moving company requests a date change and you do not agree with it, immediately contact your transportation office. If your moving company misses your pick-up date, you may be eligible for an inconvenience claim.

For additional guidance or assistance, contact the Personal Property Processing Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph at 210-652-1848; at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1605, or at JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2821.

RANDOLPH

Chaplain soars in search-and-rescue exercise

By Col. Kjäll Gopaul
HEADQUARTERS AIR EDUCATION
AND TRAINING COMMAND

Spiritual and physical care achieved an exciting nexus on April 21 as Chaplain (Capt.) David Massey of the 502nd Air Base Wing participated in Search-and-Rescue Exercise 2021, or SAREX 2021.

Under the coordinated oversight of the Texas Military Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Texas A&M Task Force One, SAREX 2021 witnessed more than 10 federal, state, and local agencies converge on Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis to improve the coordination of their Search-and-Rescue, or SAR, aviation resources during responses to natural disasters.

As part of the hurricane-based exercise, Massey was one of more than 60 victim-actors hoisted skyward by a SAR helicopter from a scenario's semi-submerged automobile, flooded home, or swiftwater threat.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pedro J. Vargas-Lebron, Air Operations Center Search-and-Rescue director, Detachment 7, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, coordinated the military units supporting the exercise.

"This is a search and rescue exercise to set up our air operations center, our state operations center, and prepare ourselves for an actual event," Vargas-Lebron explained. "This is our way of setting up for hurricane season or any flood event in the state of Texas."

Massey detailed his involvement as a disaster victim-actor.

"The mission started with

our team of 13 victims being staged at a building. Our exercise coordinator said that our building was simulated as being halfway underwater and that helicopters would lower a rescue swimmer on a cable to winch us up," he said, adding that they were hoisted from challenging platforms; not just the roof, but from balconies and windows.

"The rescue crews would have to navigate these obstacles, while we role-played distressed survivors. So, we went to the balcony and started waving frantically like we were in distress and needed rescuing," he said. "I expected a Black Hawk helicopter, but we had civilian aircraft coming to lift us out."

Shortly before being hoisted up, Massey said he looked toward the approaching Department of Public Safety helicopter and thought, "Oh wow, this is real! This is how people in a panicked, distressed crisis hold on to the hope that the rescuer on the end of that line will pull them up to safety.

"It was a humbling moment," he said. "I recognized how crucial the teamwork is for a helicopter crew to rescue people who — on the worst day of their lives — need the guy on the end of that line more than anything else. It gave me an appreciation for the rescue crew's tasks and the trauma that follows after a natural disaster or a rescue event."

Massey used the moment to reflect on his own profession of pastoral care.

"After a disaster, how would I provide spiritual support to somebody that has lost a loved one, but themselves survived? How would I help someone process those initial stages of grief, which are shock and anger? I considered those



CHAPLAIN (CAPT) DAVID MASSEY

Chaplain (Capt.) David Massey, 502nd Air Base Wing, stands in front of a Coast Guard helicopter after being hoisted aloft as a simulated flood victim during Search-and-Rescue Exercise 2021 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis April 21. Massey is sharing the moment in a video chat with his family.

things, and then it was my turn to be hoisted up by the helicopter," he said.

"Any lingering fear left, and I accepted, 'Okay, it's time to go,' Massey said. "My rescue swimmer, Chris, wrapped the harness around me. He didn't say much, he just worked around me. I was really impressed how emotionally controlled he was like it was second nature. That level of professionalism was impressive.

"Once we were hoisted clear

the field and a Black Hawk helicopter flew us back to the exercise starting point."

Massey said he had never been on a Black Hawk before, so that part of the exercise was exciting as well.

"It is an incredibly powerful machine," he said. "I was so surprised how effortlessly it took off and just pulled itself through the air. But even that short flight was a learning experience. When the rotors are turning, and the wind is blowing, and the noise is loud, and you can't hear the guy next to you ... everything is new and confusing. And if you've never been around a military helicopter before, the first time should not be in Afghanistan or Iraq, but a lower risk training environment."

Massey said the vision of the Air Force Chaplain Corps is, "To care for Airmen more than anyone thinks possible."

"Our wing ministry is big on partnerships, and my leadership saw my participation as a great opportunity to foster relationships," he said. "I wanted to develop a deeper understanding of the risks that our nation's helicopter crews take when they are responding to a crisis."

Looking back, Massey said the exercise also helped him understand the emotions of fear and how to work through some of that in a moment of intensity and uncertainty.

"It also helped me to think about how I would provide pastoral care in the wake of a major tragedy or a natural disaster — for people losing their home, belongings, or loved ones and then being rescued, and the trauma that goes with that," he said. "It forced me to think outside of my normal ministry boxes."

of the building and about 200 feet in the air, I thought 'Woah, this is an incredible view! What an amazing experience,' he said. "I was silent, it was just sensory overload, taking it all in. I wasn't winched up into the helicopter. We dangled about a hundred feet below the helicopter as it flew us away. Eventually, we descended into a field, Chris unhooked me, we fist-bumped, and then off he went for another iteration. After everyone in our group was rescued, we gathered in

12TH FTW COMMANDER SPEAKS TO AIR FORCE ROTC CADETS IN AUSTIN



Col. Scott Rowe, 12th Flying Training Wing commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, speaks to cadets at Air Force ROTC Detachment 825 in their leadership lab at the University of Texas at Austin April 30. Rowe discussed his Air Force career and experiences as an F-15 pilot and gave a lecture on his personal leadership philosophy.

COURTESY PHOTO

Rated Preparatory Program now accepting applications for Fall 2021

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Active duty Air Force officers and enlisted personnel interested in becoming rated officers have until May 25 to apply for the Fall 2021 Rated Preparatory Program.

As the program continues to expand, the fall class will partner and train with the Civil Air Patrol wing in Columbus, Indiana.

“We recently completed the third iteration of RPP, with 40 officers and 20 enlisted personnel in attendance,” said Maj. Sean Stumpf, Aircrew Task Force branch chief. “The inclusion of enlisted personnel in the program marked a significant milestone and helps cast a wide net to attract the best the Air Force has to offer and is another step toward expanding the program. We plan to continue to grow in FY22 and FY23, ultimately peaking at 240 students per year.”

Officers who complete the program are required to apply to the next available Undergraduate Flying Training selection



**Rated Preparatory Program
now accepting applications for FY21 Fall class**

COURTESY GRAPHIC

board. Enlisted participants are required to apply to at least one of the three Air Force commissioning sources: U.S. Air Force Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps or Officer Training School.

Applicants selected for RPP will first complete a self-paced, online ground course followed by a one-week, in-resident course to introduce them to

aviation fundamentals. Program participants will garner approximately seven to 10 flight hours, ground instruction and additional training time in a Federal Aviation Administration-approved flight simulator.

“The Rated Preparatory Program is a unique opportunity for officers and

enlisted,” said Col. John O’Dell, Aircrew Task Force deputy director. “For anyone who is considering pursuing a career as a rated officer, and wants to gain basic aviation skills to become more competitive, RPP can make a significant difference. The experiences gained in RPP will help members compete at Undergraduate Flying Training boards.”

Senior Airman Dell Fonda, radar airfield and weather systems technician, who recently participated in the Spring 2021 class, agreed.

“The opportunity to participate in this program reaffirmed my desire to be a rated officer and what I need to do to achieve it,” Fonda said. “The Rated Preparatory Program has been intense but has given me the insight on how to prepare a successful OTS package, as well as what to expect in Undergraduate Pilot Training if I get selected to be a pilot.”

Interested applicants can find additional information on how to apply through PSDM 21-31 on the MyPers website at https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/50176.