

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

MAY 21, 2021

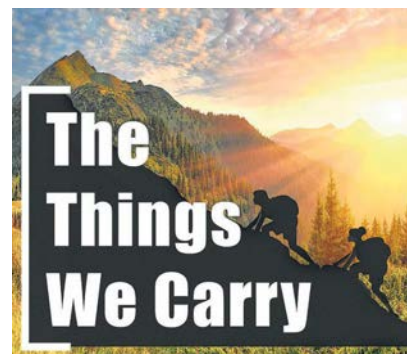


PHOTO COURTESY OF KENS5

A Joint Base San Antonio Fire Emergency Services water tanker supplies water to community firefighters at a large, multi-structure fire April 11 in Atascosa County. There are currently 17 Fire Emergency Services mutual aid agreements between JBSA and other departments in the Greater San Antonio and Bexar County area, to include Atascosa County.

JBSA fire emergency crews respond to massive fire

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Empowered Airmen accelerate change

By Staff Sgt. Nicolas Z. Erwin

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Innovation and a forward-looking mindset have long been key aspects of Air Force culture. Today, Airmen worldwide continue to exemplify these traits as they find innovative ways to implement new programs and processes to accelerate change in support of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.'s "Accelerate Change or Lose" strategic approach and accompanying Action Orders.

The action orders assist future planning efforts and add detail and clarity to Brown's call for Airmen to push for accelerated change in modernizing the Total Force. The Action Orders are - Action Order A, Airmen; Action Order B, Bureaucracy; Action Order C, Competition; and Action Order D, Design Implementation.

"My strategic approach of 'Accelerate Change or Lose' explains the 'why,'" Brown said in December when he released the Action Orders. "It is all of us ... our talented Airmen ... that are key to cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, recognizing and understanding our competition, and thinking of creative ways we can reshape the design of our Air Force."

In response to Brown's initiative, Airmen were empowered to develop improvements in how the Air Force does business and prepares for the challenges facing the service and the nation in the future. There are multiple examples of Airmen demonstrating innovation and initiative towards this end across the service.

Action Order A - Airmen

Prompted by Action Order A, Air Education and Training Command launched the Air Force Rated Diversity Improvement Strategy in

March to recruit and retain the Air Force's best talent in the rated career fields. Also in support of this action, HAF/A1 (Manpower, Personnel and Service) established the Air Force's Foundational Competencies and transformed the Airman Comprehensive Assessment in February to improve performance feedback focused on ten Airman Leadership Qualities.

"Our leaders have a responsibility to Airmen and their families to provide an environment and community where they can reach their full potential," Brown said. "Leaders must provide clear guidance so our Airmen are resilient, able to make decisions at the lowest levels and can execute our mission. That starts with recruiting the best, developing the best, and then retaining the best."

In another example, two Airmen at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, took their own initiative to help improve Airmen development. First Lt. Kristen Havens, a 333rd Training Squadron instructor, and Maj. Venise Hunter, 333rd TRS Director of Operations, transformed how all new cyber warfare officers learn and train by eliminating multiple choice exams and standardized AETC progress checks.

Acting only on their commander's intent, they pressed ahead with curriculum changes for Undergraduate Cyber Warfare Training to require students to demonstrate proficiency through China-focused training missions and perform rigorous oral exams. According to 81st Training Wing officials, the changes ensure Air and Space Force cyber warfare operations officers now graduate with institutionalized operational behaviors, greater awareness of national threats, and a foundation of competitive thinking.

Additionally, the Air Force launched another

Airmen-inspired and quality of life initiative in March known as the Exceptional Family Member Program Family Vector. This effort aims to better connect Airmen and families with the resources they need through the Department of the Air Force Child and Youth websites.

"Military service demands exceptional resiliency from our people and families," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. "It is critical that we continue to build a culture of support and have the programs available to help wherever possible."

Action Order B - Bureaucracy

One important aspect of the Action Orders is giving Airmen the resources they need and developing leaders to attract and retain the most capable and lethal Airmen for the Air Force. Action Order B is designed to enable decisions that expedite the mission, making the Air Force more effective and efficient.

"I really hate bureaucracy," Brown said during a fireside chat at the virtual 2021 Air Force Association Aerospace Warfare Symposium. "Knowing that something can be improved, but the amount of work to change it ... it really doesn't work for me. I want to cut through processes that add time and/or layers, but don't add much value."

Acting on Brown's intent, Airmen across the Air Force used the Department of the Air Force's Enterprise Decision Rights Process Approach to refine more than 800 distinct workflows into approximately 226 processes instead. Airmen will use this approach to refine other strategic and operational activities for the upcoming program objective development cycle. Under Action Order B, Airmen are encouraged to challenge the status quo to improve the Air Force's decision-making timelines and

processes.

In another example, two Airmen assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, took the initiative to eliminate hard-copy forms and old school data entry processes to improve the availability of aircraft readiness data. Tech. Sgt. Michael Heasley and Senior Airman Declan Coppernoll developed a virtual aircraft 78i-series form eliminating the requirement for aircrew and maintenance personnel to physically complete a paper form regarding KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft status. As a result, wing officials said the virtual form provides real-time situational awareness of aircraft readiness to fleet health managers and mission tasking authorities regardless of aircraft location, and in direct support of Agile Combat Employment concepts. It also resulted in savings of \$120,000 and 2,500 labor hours annually for the wing.

Action Order C - Competition

Since releasing "Accelerate, Change or Lose" in August, Brown has repeatedly emphasized all Airmen must understand the ambitions of competitors and how they might conduct future warfare. In line with Action Order C — Competition, the Headquarters Air Force's Strategic Assessment Team recently hosted a competition-focused workshop attended by Airmen and interested parties from various think tanks and academia. The findings from this workshop will help tailor the service's response to adversaries.

In addition to the need to accelerate understanding of the nation's competitors, Action Order C also calls on Airmen to accrue warfighting advantages to the U.S., its allies, and partners; enhance

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JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

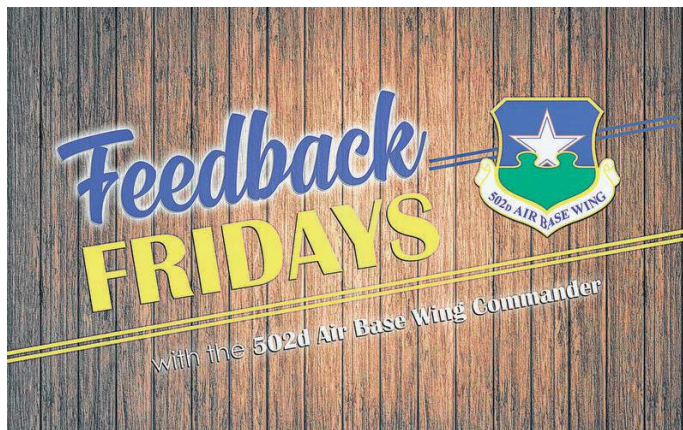
Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

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 had to wait in line for 2 1/2 hours for finance this week, despite getting in line at the time they opened. The last time I was here a month or two ago, I had to wait for more than an hour. I have back problems, so it's very difficult for me.

I would like for the finance office to find ways to reduce the wait time by having more than one person at the window to help or to offer callbacks. I'm sure there is some sort of solution so this doesn't keep happening.

A. Thank you for the feedback. As we continue to communicate changes to our Comptroller Squadron, we are emphasizing the use of our virtual customer platform, Comptroller Services Portal, or CSP, which is now the Air Force standard at all active



COURTESY GRAPHIC

duty installations.

Joint Base San Antonio was the third base in the Air Force to use CSP, as we adapted our operation in response to COVID-19 and the volume of work at JBSA.

We've found success with our CPTS team's ability to focus on one stream of customers as much as possible while keeping the conversation documented.

Our analysis shows it would take at least 11 technicians to handle customer inquiries via phone.

We've posted 23 knowledge articles with required documents, templates

and information focused on a variety of civilian, military, and travel pay topics. We recommend customers review the knowledge articles prior to submitting more actionable inquiries. Each month articles are added in an effort to help expedite the process.

The CSP capability allows users to submit inquiries anytime and location, using the internet and a Common Access Card reader. CSP provides online support without the need to drive or wait in a physical line.

Q. With police across America now

a target, on and off duty, will the installation commander for each JBSA installation allow each police officer to protect themselves through concealed carry of a handgun under the authority of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act?

Texas Peace Officers and military police are constantly placing themselves in harm's way by removing weapons that could protect them in order to enter each installation.

A. Thank you for your question. The safety and security of all JBSA personnel is one of our top priorities.

Currently, JBSA's policy states, "carrying a privately owned firearm on all JBSA installations is prohibited except to transport to your on-base residence or the Security Forces armory."

In order to balance the needs and concerns of the military missions across JBSA and the welfare of the community, our Security Forces Group is diligently working on a draft for a revised policy.

However, the full-time carry of a concealed firearm onto any JBSA installation or into government facilities is not authorized.

Once a new policy is coordinated and approved, it will be publicized. Until then, we ask that you continue to follow current procedures.

Air Force follows revised DOD transgender policies

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

In March 2021, the Defense Department recognized transgender and gender non-conforming people and their continued struggle for equality, security and dignity.

LGBTIQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning individuals.

The revised policies in these instructions essentially restore the DOD's original 2016 policies regarding transgender service. Specifically, they prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or an individual's identification as transgender. They also provide a means to access into the military in one's self-identified gender,

provided all appropriate military standards are met.

"Diverse backgrounds, beliefs and experiences make us a stronger workforce. We want to make sure our culture is inclusive, enabling all Airmen and Guardians to serve their country and contribute to our mission," said Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs John Fedrigio.

The Department of the Air Force guidance provides details on how the Department will comply with the DOD Instructions, such as the exception to policy processes. It describes how commanders consult and work with military healthcare providers to support transgender

members while balancing the needs of their mission.

It also provides a path for those in service for medical treatment, gender transition and recognition in one's self-identified gender. The policy also seeks to protect the privacy of all service members and to treat them with dignity and respect at all times.

In January, President Joe Biden issued two executive orders that impacted DOD transgender individuals: Executive Order 1398, "Preventing And Combating Discrimination On The Basis Of Gender Identity Or Sexual Orientation," and EO 14004, "Enabling All Qualified Americans To Serve Their Country In Uniform."

Army National Hiring Days kicks off with extra \$2k bonus

U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs

U.S. Army Recruiting Command is hosting hundreds of virtual career fairs across the country as part of the military service's second Army National Hiring Days event from May 10 through June 14.

The nationwide hiring campaign, which first launched as a virtual event in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, offers a special \$2,000 incentive for individuals who enlist during the five-week event in one of 11 priority occupations and ship to training by the end of September.

Priority positions range from infantry and psychological operations to explosives ordnance disposal and air and missile defense.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Many of the more than 150 different Army careers already include signing bonuses up to \$40,000 or student loan reimbursement up to \$65,000, depending on qualifications, selected occupation, and length of the service contract.

The Army also is seeking healthcare professionals to fill

vital roles as doctors, nurses, nutritionists and more. These positions have a variety of associated incentives, including signing bonuses, student loan repayment, and scholarships for medical, dental or veterinary school.

During the virtual career fairs hosted by local recruiting

stations, recruiters will provide information about career opportunities and answer questions potential applicants may have about life in the Army.

The recruiters will also discuss the benefits Soldiers receive, including health insurance, retirement plans, training and certifications, tuition assistance for college courses, and family support programs.

"The last year has been challenging for our nation and the world," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, USAREC commanding general. "We want young people to know the Army offers stability, especially during an unsteady time. Stability with a consistent job, consistent paycheck, comprehensive healthcare, and a built-in support system for

Soldiers and their families. We're offering opportunities for them to join us in a meaningful career that will prepare them for success in the future."

To become an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army, individuals must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; be 17-34 years old; achieve a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test; meet medical, moral and physical requirements; and be a high school graduate or equivalent.

During Army National Hiring Days, interested individuals can visit www.goarmy.com/hiringdays to see if they meet the qualifications, learn about part-time and full-time careers and associated hiring incentives, and connect with a local recruiter.

Army authorizes ponytails for female Soldiers in all uniforms

U.S. Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Army announced an update to its grooming policy May 6 which now allows female Soldiers to wear ponytails in all authorized U.S. Army uniforms.

In February, the Army revised guidance on grooming standards after a Department of Defense-mandated review of Army policies. Through feedback from the Force resulting in a clear, consolidated policy recommendation from a group of Soldiers, the Army reconsidered and approved the wear of ponytails.

"This new modification is more practical for our female Soldiers. It allows them flexibility in a tactical environment while maintaining a professional appearance in garrison," said Sgt. Maj. Brian C. Sanders, Army G-1 Uniform Policy Branch Sergeant Major. "This change also helps to alleviate hair loss and damage to the scalp."

The Army previously approved healthier hairstyle options that are more inclusive of various natural styles in an effort to stop hair damage and loss stemming from styles like the bun.

The Army consistently evaluates regulatory guidance, including uniform and grooming policy, to better the lives of our people, our top priority. Grooming and pride in one's uniform directly

impact discipline and personal readiness, which affects unit readiness.

Key changes include:

- » Hair will be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or secured in either a bun, single ponytail, two braids or a single braid.
- » Multiple locs, braids, twists or cornrows may come together in one or two braids or a single ponytail.
- » Braids and singular ponytails may be worn down the center of the back in all uniforms, but length will not extend past the bottom of the shoulder blades while at the position of attention. There is no minimum length for the wear of a ponytail or braid.

The only exception on the length of the ponytail or braid is while conducting tactical or physical training. The length of the hair should not hinder a Soldier's performance or present a safety risk.

"Commanders will analyze the risk of a free-hanging ponytail or braid and use commander's discretion to determine if long hair will be secured or tucked inside the uniform top," said Sanders.

A complete list of changes to the Army's appearance and grooming standards is published at <https://army.pubs.army.mil/Publications/Administrative/POG/SA.aspx>.



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Army Soldier wearing new approved ponytail hair style.

‘The Things We Carry’ - Stories of resilience told through first-hand experiences

By 2nd Lt. Katelin Robinson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, launched a new video campaign series that allows JBSA members to tell their individual stories of resilience.

The campaign, appropriately titled “The Things We Carry,” or TTWC, attests to the life experiences that we carry with us which have shaped who we are today. Examples of stories the campaign may highlight are dealing with loss, financial difficulties, domestic violence, divorce, deployments, substance abuse or dependency, professional struggles, suicide, and sexual assault survivors, to name a few.

Col. David Trotter, 502nd ABW and JBSA vice commander, introduces the campaign in a 7-minute story of losing his brother to suicide, as well as two members of his deployed unit during humanitarian aid missions overseas.

Trotter describes how the losses affected him and how every year as November approaches, he is reminded of his fallen comrades. He also discusses how coworkers, and even his chaplain at the time, told him he needed to see someone for his anger issues. He fought through, despite such tragedies, and shares just how he did it.



Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, launched a new video campaign series that allows JBSA members to tell their individual stories of resilience. The campaign, appropriately titled “The Things We Carry,” or TTWC, attests to the life experiences that we carry with us which have shaped who we are today.

“The things we carry are not always visible to others. It’s not always as apparent as a scar,” Miller said as she moved her hair slightly to show her scar

from cancer removal two years ago. “Some scars we carry within us, and they have changed the way we operate.

“That’s why this campaign is so great,” she continued. “It’s nothing like I’ve ever seen before and gives people the chance to tell their story, share their experience, and offer hope to those dealing with similar situations.”

During the campaign, one JBSA member’s story will be shared each month. If you would like to participate, email jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com using the subject line “The Things We Carry.”

This campaign is open to any and all participants, including civilians, family members, retirees, and active duty, Reserve or National Guard members, and others with base access. It will require a minimum of two hours of in-studio recording time.

The videos will be posted at <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Resiliency/> under the TTWC logo and may also be used for training purposes. The videos will also be shared on the JBSA Facebook page accompanied by links to the local supporting resources the interviewee utilized.

Sharing of the TTWC links and information is encouraged to help spread these important messages of resilience not only with JBSA members but throughout the community.

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collective deterrence credibility; and drive competition to areas of U.S. advantage and competitors’ weakness.

Airmen at Air University’s Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, took this to heart when they designed a Command Senior Enlisted Leadership course in collaboration with their Estonian military counterparts during a three-day virtual planning workshop April 6-8 with the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia. The course, which is scheduled for September 2021, will help senior enlisted leaders gain a greater understanding of the needs of all nations bordering the Baltic Sea, and how the U.S. and allies can work to amplify their collective strengths against competition in the region.

In another example, Airmen deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, also took initiative to close a training gap and demonstrate an innovative capability that makes the Air Force more competitive. Lt. Col. David Gunter, 335th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, and his squadron formed a joint operations and maintenance team that planned and conducted an F-15E Strike Eagle hot pit refueling and integrated combat turn at another location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. This entailed sending required maintenance equipment and personnel to the downrange location, conducting

the hot pits and integrated combat turns for the fighter aircraft, and then returning everyone and their equipment to Al Dhafra Air Base the same day.

Action Order D — Design Implementation

Action Order D highlights the need to “make force structure decisions ... and amend force planning processes to create the fiscal flexibility required to design and field the future force we need.” This entails determining what the Air Force will need in the future and then making decisions supporting that vision.

Toward that end, Airmen assigned to HAF in AF/A5 (Strategy, Integration, and Requirements), AF/A8 (Plans and Programs), and AF/A9 (Studies, Analyses and Assessments) recently implemented three ‘deep dive planning processes’ to aid the Air Staff in establishing resource planning priorities based on mission capabilities instead of specific aircraft, or platforms. During these deep dives, teams prioritized current and future Air Force programs focused on capabilities such as penetrating and non-penetrating forces, mobility forces, and the advanced battle management system.

In another example, the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, exercised the force design needed for the future by rapidly developing and executing a four-day Agile Combat Employment exercise in the desert of western Utah. According to wing officials, Airmen from nine squadrons and twenty different functional areas

developed the exercise on their own initiative and rapidly set up a contingency location in only a couple of hours with nothing but a runway and a water source.

During the exercise, the Airmen recovered fighter aircraft, conducted integrated combat turns, refueled, reloaded, retargeted, and launched the aircraft back into the simulated fight. The exercise trained and validated 65 multi-capable Airmen from diverse backgrounds and demonstrated the agile combat employment the Air Force will need to succeed in a future fight.

Empowered Airmen Accelerate Change

According to Brown, investing in and empowering Airmen means they will not only imagine a better future for the Air Force, but they will be the ones to lead and propel the service toward the future force the nation needs. Ultimately, the four Action Orders serve to provide bookends that provide Airmen with a focus on accelerating change and ensuring the service can fulfill its mission to fly, fight, and win and deliver Airpower anytime, anywhere.

“Every Airman is directly responsible for acquiring, delivering, supporting, launching and driving Airpower,” Brown said. “Airpower is the culmination of the diverse specialties, expertise and capabilities that make up our Air Force. Without it, all those planes and vehicles on the flight line would just be static displays. It’s on all of us to accelerate change and make progress together.”

FORT SAM HOUSTON

BAMC dedicates auditorium to hospital's longest-serving civilian

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With friends, family and a host of former bosses cheering her on, Brooke Army Medical Center dedicated its fourth-floor auditorium to Carolyn D. Putnam, the hospital's longest-serving government civilian, during a ceremony May 11.

The 85-year-old commander's secretary has been a civil servant for 66 years, with 61 of those years at BAMC.

"Ms. Putnam embodies the character and dedication of the very best our nation has to offer and is a shining example to all Americans," wrote John E. Whitely, acting Secretary of the Army, in his dedication approval memo. "She has earned a place of honor in U.S. Army history."

The surprise ceremony caught the normally stalwart secretary off guard. Along with 17 of her colleagues, Putnam had been called to the auditorium that morning to accept a Lifetime of Service award, a new BAMC recognition honoring government civilians with 45-plus years of service.

After the last certificate was handed out, leaders called Putnam and her son, Chip, back to the stage. She was visibly shocked as they unveiled the ornate dedication plaque.

Speechless at first, Putnam soon rallied for the crowd.

"I feel so privileged, so honored," she said as tears filled her eyes. "The best part of my career has been the 61 years



JASON W. EDWARDS

Carolyn Putnam, secretary to the Brooke Army Medical Center commander, reacts to the announcement of the dedication of BAMC's auditorium as the "Carolyn D. Putnam Auditorium" at BAMC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 11. The dedication in her name was a surprise to Putnam, who has been in federal civil service for 66 years, 61 of which have been at BAMC.

I've spent at BAMC."

Four of Putnam's former bosses attended the event and six sent in video messages. In total, as commander's secretary, Putnam has worked for 17 generals and nine colonels.

"Ms. Putnam is the epitome of a civil servant," said Maj. Gen. George Appenzeller,

Defense Health Agency assistant director for combat support. "She is a civil servant who has spent her entire life taking care of others and those folks who put their lives on the line for the rest of us."

Maj. Eileen Cassidy, chief, Business Operations Division, initiated the approval process, which took more than a year

and required signatures at four levels of command.

"When the Secretary of the Army approved this dedication, I hoped that Ms. Putnam, and all civilians within BAMC and across the Military Health System, would know how deeply we all value their service and sacrifice," she said. "We are so grateful to the

leaders at all levels who recognized Ms. Putnam's incredible contributions over the past six decades."

The early years

Putnam was 10 years old when she started her long association with BAMC. It was 1945 and World War II was nearing its end.

Her sister, who had caught malaria while serving in the Philippines, was hospitalized at the then-Brooke General Hospital. Putnam was eager to check on her hero big sister; however, "back then you couldn't visit family unless you were 12, so the nurses sneaked me up the main hospital stairs so I could see her," she recalled with a laugh.

That sister, Lillian Dunlap, went on to become a brigadier general and the 14th chief of the Army Nurse Corps, Putnam noted proudly.

As a student at Incarnate Word High School, Putnam found she had a knack for typing and shorthand and set her sights on secretarial work. After graduation in 1953, she took the civil service test and scored a job — a clerk/typist in the Finance and Accounting Office at then-Lackland Air Force Base. She stayed there for five years, moving up to become a military pay clerk in the Officer Pay Section in 1954.

BAMC legacy begins

It was in 1960 that Putnam's 61-year BAMC legacy began.

After an 18-month hiatus to care for her newborn son, Chip, she accepted a clerk-typist job in the Department of Surgery at

BAMC continues on 10



Brig. Gen. Alcides V. Faria (right), U.S. Army South deputy commanding general for interoperability, receives a tour by representatives of the Ministry of Health and Wellness of a U.S.-funded mobile field hospital based at the Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine, Jamaica, April 29.

COURTESY PHOTO /

Army South strengthens cooperation with Jamaica for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief response

By Leanne Thomas
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Alcides V. Faria, U.S. Army South deputy commanding general for interoperability, represented the U.S. Army and conducted a walk-through of the second field hospital donated to Jamaica by the U.S. through U.S. Southern Command.

The hospital was set up in Spanish Town by the Jamaica Defence Force March 31 with the capacity to care for up to 70 patients impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the visit, Faria also met with representatives from the U.S. Agency of International Development, the Jamaica Defence Force and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management to gain a better perspective on how Jamaica is coping with COVID-19 and

“The visit was important to continue strengthening the enduring U.S.-Jamaica partnership and gain a better understanding of Jamaica’s disaster relief response capabilities and how U.S. Army South may assist.”

Brig. Gen. Alcides V. Faria, U.S. Army South deputy commanding general for interoperability

preparing for Hurricane season 2021.

“The visit was important to continue strengthening the enduring U.S.-Jamaica partnership and gain a better understanding of Jamaica’s disaster relief response capabilities and how U.S. Army South may assist,” said Faria.

According to the Jamaica Gleaner, Faria also had a discussion concerning a third hospital to be donated by the U.S. through SOUTHCOM to arrive later this year.

SOUTHCOM intends to donate one field hospital to the Jamaican Defence Force Disaster Response Team to amplify its response to a local or regional humanitarian crisis or sudden onset of disaster.

U.S. Army South is committed to supporting the efforts of partner nations to increase institutional capacity and regional collaboration for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, one of the greatest challenges facing the region.

JBSA celebrates Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May

By Maria F. Rodriguez
AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

In observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, or AAPIHM, May 1-31, Joint Base San Antonio is providing a virtual presentation to include the AAPIHM poster and slide presentation.

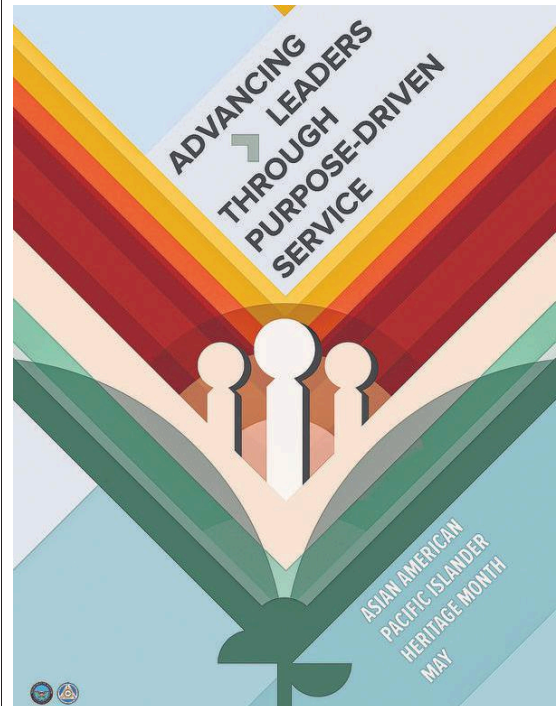
The Federal Asian Pacific American Council, or FAPAC, has identified this year’s theme for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month as “Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service.” This observance celebrates the service and sacrifices of Asian/Pacific

Islanders throughout the United States.

In celebration of AAPIHM, JBSA will display AAPIHM posters across its installations at libraries, as well as in the Military and Family Readiness Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and at the commissaries at JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland.

Visitors to these locations are encouraged to follow COVID-19 health and safety measures, including practicing physical distancing.

For more information, contact the Civilian Personnel Section at 210-221-1408 or usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.jbsa-fsh-cps@mail.mil.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

USAISR hosts medical science, technology innovation virtual summit

By Dr. Steven Galvan

U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL
RESEARCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston hosted a virtual Medical Science and Technology Innovation Summit April 21 for the U.S. Army Futures Command, the University of Texas System, and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command.

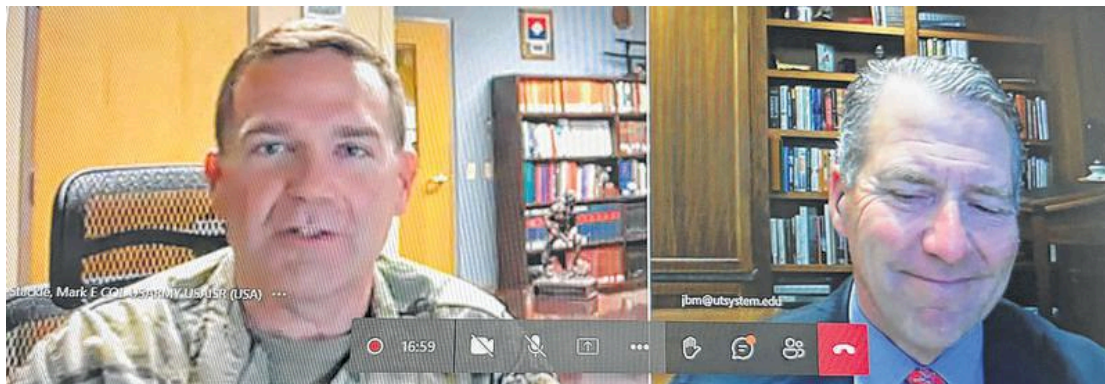
The meeting brought senior leaders and scientific experts from each organization together to foster interaction and explore future collaborations focused on solving problems for warfighters on the battlefield, with an emphasis on turning the “Golden Hour” into the “Golden Day.”

The term “Golden Hour” refers to the first 60 minutes following a battlefield injury when proper medical treatment can be crucial to a warfighter’s survival.

During his opening remarks, Gen. John M. Murray, commanding general, U.S. Army Futures Command, said talks for the summit had been proceeding until 14 months ago when the COVID-19 pandemic halted planning efforts.

Murray also mentioned that he shared his vision of turning the Golden Hour into the Golden Day with Brig. Gen. Michael Talley when Talley took command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, or USAMRDC, more than two years ago.

“I asked him to focus research on that because that is one of the tasks that Army Futures Command was stood up to do, and that’s to begin to describe, not define, but describe what a future battlefield might look like,”



DR. STEVEN GALVAN

Col. (Dr.) Mark E. Stackle (left), U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research commander, introduces University of Texas System Chancellor James B. Milliken to the virtual Medical Science and Technology Innovation Summit April 21.

Murray said. “I don’t have a definition for that, but if you don’t understand what that could look like, then we’re going to have a hard time defining our research priorities.”

Murray envisions future battlefields unlike those from recent military conflicts where battlefield wounded casualties were receiving life-saving medical procedures within the first hour of the injury — the golden hour.

The focus is now on providing prolonged medical care to service members deployed to remote and austere locations far from medical support where immediate evacuation from the point of injury is impractical.

“We’re going to have to figure out how to sustain life at the point of injury a lot longer than we ever have in the past,” Murray said. “So, I think there are all kinds of areas that we can collaborate in.”

During his comments, University of Texas System Chancellor James B. Milliken agreed with Murray that collaboration between UTS and

AFC focusing on extending that crucial window of care is one of the most important things for American service members on the battlefield.

Milliken, who leads one of the largest public university systems in the U.S., noted that UT universities in Dallas, Arlington, Austin, and San Antonio have some of the nation’s best bio-engineering programs, automation of robotics research, advanced computing centers and centers for brain health.

“My colleagues and I are proud to be able to partner with Army Futures Command to work on such a critically important project to leverage expertise across multiple institutions and programs,” Milliken said. “This is great for the Army, great for Texas, great for the universities and great for our nation. I know that I speak for Gen. Murray when I say that we’re turning to you summit attendees, the best minds in these fields to take us to the next level of innovation in trauma care.”

Murray and Talley both mentioned the U.S. military’s

success in improving the survival rate of service members wounded in battle to more than 90 percent during the last 20 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Talley credited the survival rate success to air superiority and air dominance in all theatres of operation.

“We don’t expect that to continue,” Talley said. “Getting evacuation conducted in a way that we don’t conduct now using robotics and unmanned aerial systems, perhaps, that represents exactly what we’re going to need in the future. The fact that MRDC is under the Army Futures Command keeps us in line with where we’re going as a military and it’s important that we’re able to amalgamate the best minds that America has to offer.”

Col. (Dr.) Mark Stackle, USAISR commander, moderated the summit’s briefs from each senior leader during the first part of the summit in the morning. The afternoon portion of the meeting featured six breakout sessions where each USAISR Combat Casualty Care Research Team presented

their research focus to encourage discussions and future collaborations.

“I think we’ve put together a pretty tremendous program, alongside our UT Systems partners,” Stackle said. “We really hope that this session will provide the spark for future collaboration opportunities between the Army Futures Command and the institutions within the University of Texas System.”

The six USAISR CRTs focus on the following topics: Oxygen Delivery to Tissues and Shock Management; Hemorrhage and Vascular Dysfunction; Metabolic Failure and Organ Dysfunction; Wound Progression and Infection; Pain, Sensory Trauma and Mental Status; and Engineering Solutions to Enable Combat Casualty Care.

The USAISR is one of six research institutes under the USAMRDC and is the Army’s premier research organization focused exclusively on the combat wounded. Notably, the USAISR is the home of the only burn center in the U.S. Department of Defense.

93-year-old volunteer, veteran gets satisfaction from volunteering at BAMC

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For 15 years, the friendly voice of Victor Lopez has greeted and welcomed visitors at the information desk at Brooke Army Medical Center.

The 93-year-old veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars volunteers every Tuesday at the hospital's information desk from 7 a.m. to noon or longer, depending on how busy it gets. As a volunteer, Lopez helps visitors who come to the information desk asking for directions to where they need to go within the BAMC complex or answering any questions they may have.

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of it," said Lopez of his volunteer service at BAMC. "You meet a lot of interesting people and you feel good about helping people."

Lopez started his voluntary service at BAMC 26 years ago, helping with patient records in the ophthalmology department at the old BAMC, now the U.S. Army South headquarters. He continued helping in the ophthalmology department, retrieving and sorting outpatient records for physicians for 11 years until he requested to be moved to the information desk, where he felt he could be more helpful.

Since he started volunteering at the hospital, Lopez has logged more than 5,600 hours of voluntary service to BAMC. For his years of dedicated service to the hospital, Lopez was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award during the Joint Base San Antonio Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony April 21 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center.

The President's Volunteer



COURTESY PHOTO

Victor Lopez holds the President's Volunteer Service Award, awarded to him at the JBSA Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony April 21.

Service Award recognizes individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires people around them to volunteer as well.

Lopez said he was surprised to receive the award and that his motivation for volunteering is to help others, not to gain recognition for himself.

"The fact that they selected me really, really made me feel

good," he said. "It's really an honor to give back and to receive such an award. I prefer not to be noticed. I volunteer for so long and volunteers do it because they want to help others and the fact I was selected was a great, great honor."

Lopez, a retired Army sergeant major, served for 29 years. The native of Puerto Rico was drafted into the Army at the age of 21 in 1950. He served in the 65th Infantry

"No matter when you see him, no matter what he's doing, Victor's always smiling. He's just that kind of a guy. He's a ray of sunshine in the hospital."

Michael Dulevitz, Chief, Office of Volunteer Services
at Brooke Army Medical Center

Regiment during the Korean War. The regiment consisted of native Puerto Ricans and was nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," which is the original Taino Indian name for Puerto Rico (Borinquen).

In 2016, members of the 65th Regiment, including Lopez, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian awards bestowed by Congress, for their actions at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in late December 1950 during the Korean War.

During the battle, the regiment protected the retreating 1st Marine Division from Chinese Communist forces who were trying to capture them. Despite harsh winter conditions, the 65th Regiment held off the enemy, allowing the Marines to safely withdraw to evacuating ships at a port.

He served in Vietnam from 1967-68, as an operations sergeant for the 44th Medical Brigade. Lopez ended his military career as the chief instructor at the U.S. Army Medical Department, Health Services Academy, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, retiring in 1979.

Lopez, who was a counselor in the Army, said working at the information desk allows him to utilize the counseling and problem-solving skills he learned in the service.

"At the information desk,

you get busloads of people that come through the clinic entrance that have appointments all over the hospital," he said. "A lot of people come in really confused. They're having problems, you got to be able to listen to whatever they are talking about, be a good listener and try to help. I enjoy that."

Interactions Lopez has with people at the information desk include veterans of the two wars he served in, Korea and Vietnam.

"They really appreciate the fact that I ask them about their service and on how they're doing," Lopez said. "I get to see a guy who was with me in Korea. We usually have a lot to talk about."

Lopez and his wife, Carmen, who passed away 11 years ago, were married for 56 years. He has three daughters, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Michael Dulevitz, Chief, Office of Volunteer Services at BAMC, said Lopez is a gentle soul who has a calm demeanor, is people-driven and who likes giving back to the military community by volunteering at the information desk.

"No matter when you see him, no matter what he's doing, Victor's always smiling," Dulevitz said. "He's just that kind of a guy. He's a ray of sunshine in the hospital."

Annual BAMC mammogram event helps save lives

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center partnered with University Health System to offer mammograms to BAMC civilian and contract employees May 7.

Additionally, a breast health information booth was available to those walking through the Medical Mall and walk-in mammogram services were available to TRICARE beneficiaries in the Mammography Clinic.

The annual event, usually held in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, had to be rescheduled because of COVID-19.

"The goal of this event is to increase breast health awareness, promote early detection through education and improve access to care," said Bianca Rodriguez, BAMC breast nurse navigator. "We rescheduled the event right before Mother's Day in efforts to remind people to care for their lady loved ones by encouraging and supporting them to schedule a mammogram."

During the event, UHS performed 28 screening mammograms in their mobile mammogram bus and the Mammography Clinic saw 39 patients.

The event was so successful, UHS added an additional date to see more patients.

The American Cancer Society estimates there will be about 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in women in 2021, and about



JASON W. EDWARDS

Reyne Husky (right) provides women's health information during a Breast Cancer Awareness event at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 7. Husky was able to discover her own breast cancer after attending a similar event.

43,600 women will die from breast cancer this year alone.

Breast cancer is sometimes found after symptoms appear, but many women with breast cancer have no symptoms. That's why regular breast cancer screening is so important. For more information about screening guidelines, visit <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/find-cancer-early/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer.html>.

Reyne Husky knows firsthand the importance of screening mammograms. She was diagnosed

with breast cancer in 2009.

"I noticed a lump after doing a self-examination on my breast," Husky said. "The cancer was detected after I had a mammogram and biopsy on my left breast at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. Without early detection, it could have been deadly."

After coming to San Antonio, Husky joined the Life After Cancer Education, or LACE, group at BAMC.

"Being a cancer survivor, I attended one of their meetings and I loved it!" she said. "It was very inspirational. Bianca facilitated the meeting, and I left there

inspired to do better. Little did I know that I would soon be on my second journey with breast cancer."

In October 2019, Husky happened to be at BAMC during the annual breast cancer awareness event. She stopped by the information table to visit.

"Bianca and Darby Stacey, who are part of the LACE group, were passing out breast cancer awareness brochures," she said. "Darby walked with me to the Mammography Clinic where I scheduled an appointment."

Husky is thankful that her friends encouraged her to get her mammogram that day.

"I had no intentions of receiving a mammogram at that time," she said. "That is how the cancer on my right breast was discovered."

Currently, Husky has almost completed her treatment course and is looking forward to a cancer-free future. She wants to continue to volunteer in the LACE program and promote breast cancer awareness.

"The breast cancer awareness program at BAMC is key in early detection," Husky said. "This program has a profound impact on cancer patients, survivors and family members."

"I just want to share how grateful I am for the outstanding medical services I have received from my doctors and the support staff at BAMC," she added. "I cannot say enough about the LACE program and how it has helped me through these most difficult times of my life."

BAMC

From page 6

then-Brooke General Hospital.

Over the next decade, she served in various positions in the General Surgery Service and became secretary to the chief and assistant chief, Thoracic-Cardiovascular Surgery Service, in 1964.

In the 70s, Putnam continued to rise up the ranks. During the Vietnam era, BAMC swelled up to 1,000 beds to care for the wounded and she saw a constant influx of drafted Vietnam-era doctors.

Putnam crossed paths with a few high-profile guests at that

time, including President Lyndon Johnson, who would stop by for checkups when staying at his Texas White House ranch near Stonewall, and movie legend John Wayne, who would visit burn patients.

When Wayne came, the staff gathered at the main hospital's lobby to greet the star. "I swear he looked right at me and said, 'Howdy,'" she said with a grin. "Of course, all of the ladies fell out right on the spot."

New challenges

With years of hospital-wide experience under her belt, Putnam felt ready to tackle the pinnacle of her career. On Dec. 27, 1981, she became

secretary-stenographer for BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Tracy E. Strevey Jr.

"I was scared to death," she recalled. "But I was blessed and fortunate to have help from many people."

In 1996, with Brig. Gen. Robert Claypool now in command, Putnam joined the staff in the new 450-bed BAMC hospital building. Up until then, the hospital had been scattered in buildings throughout Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"That was an exciting time," Putnam said. "Many commanders had fought hard to get this beautiful new building. It was very special to

finally all be housed under the same roof."

Here to stay

Other opportunities cropped up over the years, but Putnam dismissed them all without a second thought.

"I could never leave BAMC," she said with tears in her eyes. "I love my job, the people, the sense of patriotism, being around the wounded service members and other patients ... I've always been happy here. Every single day, no matter how small the task, I feel a sense of contribution and reward."

After more than six decades of service, Putnam said it's

surreal to now have an auditorium named in her honor.

During the ceremony, Putnam recalled driving down Interstate Highway 35 years ago with her then-young son and his friend in the backseat.

"Chip would point at the old main post hospital and tell his friend, 'That's mommy's hospital,'" she said. "And now, I don't just have a hospital, I have an auditorium. I am so honored and so grateful."

"From the bosses to my co-workers to staff throughout the hospital, I've loved every minute of my time at BAMC," she added. "This place is a part of me."

LACKLAND

JBSA fire emergency crews flex joint training skills at massive fire incident

By 502nd Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Fire Emergency Services answered the call April 11 to assist with fighting a large, multi-structure fire, as part of a mutual aid agreement between JBSA and Atascosa County.

When the JBSA crew received the initial call for mutual aid assistance, they mounted up a fire engine and water tanker and headed to the scene more than 20 miles away.

Upon arrival, the incident commander instructed them to park the fire engine farther away from the scene but wanted the tanker at the site.

"We got out our dump tank, which is a big 4,000-gallon water supply, and placed it to the side. Other department trucks came by and filled the dump tank up from the nearest hydrant throughout the entire night," said Anthony Owens, station chief at JBSA-Lackland.

Owens estimates they shuttled about 40,000 gallons of water in total during the incident.

In addition to serving as a primary water source, the JBSA team also contributed to fighting the fire.

"While fighting a fire, we only have a limited amount of time; we actually ran out of air, so we backed out," said Jacob Mathie, lead firefighter at JBSA-Lackland. "My guys only had a five-minute break, resurfaced, and went right back in.

"At that point, we were assigned to salvage and overhaul," he said. "We would take in a handline, we would take in tools and equipment, and start ripping walls down, pulling ceilings down, and finding any fires that may have crept up into the eaves."

In all, the blaze destroyed five structures, including three family-occupied homes and two abandoned structures, nine vehicles, and more than three acres of property. It was reported that the fire began with a homeowner burning trash. The



MARTIN OLIVARES

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Fire Emergency Services answered the call April 11 to assist with fighting a large, multi-structure fire, as part of a mutual aid agreement between JBSA and Atascosa County.

homeowner reportedly lost control of the blaze, and it quickly moved to piles of tires stored nearby.

Michael Guzman, JBSA Fire Emergency Services deputy chief, said this real-world incident was exactly the kind of emergency JBSA Fire Emergency Services personnel train for, and this response utilized many skills the teams practice during multi-agency joint training.

"All of our mutual aid partners, specifically Bexar County, have a lot of confidence in the reliability that our firefighters bring when they arrive on scene and help to mitigate the incidents," Guzman said, giving credit to the joint training opportunities which occur throughout the year.

"We do several different training evolutions regularly with our mutual aid partners," Mathie said, adding that training occurs on JBSA and at

community fire training facilities.

"We can work on techniques, figure out what they like to do, what we like to do, and see what we can mesh together to make a better attack scheme," he explained.

Joint training opportunities often coordinated through mutual aid agreements include technical rescue, structural firefighting, medical, hazmat, aircraft rescue, and more.

One very important joint training exercise the crews participate in is Rapid Intervention Team, or RIT, training, which is training for rescuing a down firefighter, Mathie said.

"When a firefighter goes down, we have an RIT team established, and we do training like that to make sure we're all on the same page," he said. "We all want to make sure we do similar RIT training because when we respond [to an emergency call], we might get assigned

to RIT, and when you have an outside department coming, those are the guys that — when things hit the fan — those are the guys you're counting on."

The fire in Atascosa County required at least 10 fire departments and more than 50 firefighters, and, due to high winds, took nearly six hours to get under control.

"These guys do an outstanding job, and they worked until 3 a.m.," Guzman said. "I received several compliments from other departments about their efforts out there on the fire scene, so I'm very proud of them. They set the standard high, which is good for any other mutual aid agreement responses we go on."

There are currently 17 Fire Emergency Services mutual aid agreements between JBSA and other departments in the Greater San Antonio and Bexar County area.



THOMAS A. CONEY

The first flight comprised entirely of U.S. Space Force Guardians graduated from Air Force Basic Military Training May 6 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

U.S. Space Force achieves another milestone at BMT

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Another U.S. Space Force milestone was reached May 6 when the first all-Guardian flight graduated from Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The 31 men in Flight 429 and four women in Flight 430 were assigned to the 324th Training Squadron and were among the 571 recruits who completed 7 1/2 weeks of training. These 35 individuals now bring the total number of Guardians to graduate from BMT up to 75.

BMT has evolved for U.S. Space Force members since the first seven Guardians graduated Dec. 10.

"The curriculum has improved so we can lay a better foundation and has been tailored to meet training objectives specific to USSF," said Master Sgt. Jamal Huntley, a Guardian assigned to the 737th Training Support Squadron. "Having USSF trainees consolidated into one or two flights makes instilling a new culture easier and allows pairing the flight with a USSF Military Training Instructor like Tech. Sgt. Eric Mistrot."

Mistrot, a Master MTI assigned to the 324th TRS, said that while most of BMT is still based on the Air Force, academic classes are meant to meet Space Force-specific training objectives.

"As we continue to learn, the USSF training portion will continue to evolve," Mistrot said. "There are a lot of things that Guardians may not use day to day, like drill. But the values that are instilled in them — unity of effort, precision, and the ability to follow orders — will stay with them for the remainder of their careers."

The USSF-specific training

includes 21 total hours of additional instruction and includes eight hours of self-paced instruction with a heavy emphasis on Emotional Intelligence; and seven instructional blocks totaling 13 hours that include USSF structure, ways forward, unclassified intelligence briefings and briefings from USSF senior leaders about military doctrine.

After graduation, the 35 new Guardians will head off to technical training at one of three bases: Space Systems Operations (IC6 career field) at Vandenberg Air Force Base,

California; Intelligence (IN career fields) at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; or Cyber/Communications (3D career fields) at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The 324th TRS is commanded by Lt. Col. Benjamin Werner; the squadron superintendent is Chief Master Sgt. Nicole Hicks. In addition to Mistrot, the MTIs for Flight 429 included Tech. Sgts. Nicole Schickley, Devin Elliott, and Joseph Van Doren. The MTIs for Flight 430 included Master Sgt. Bradley Rector, and Tech. Sgts. Marcos Garcia, Sean Powell, and Billy Waller.

Mobile paint simulator helps expand training

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With just a few clicks, a spray gun and virtual reality goggles, instructors at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy are using new software to teach proper painting techniques — in the classroom here and across partner nation countries — without wasting a drop of paint.

The academy has used different versions of the paint simulator in the past, but the latest 4D technology allows mobile training teams to travel with the equipment and provide instruction with real-time results while eliminating expenses. The original software was purchased at an estimated \$30,000, with the latest addition averaging \$10,000. The cutting-edge technology is helping to reach more partner nation students.

“The upgrade of the system will help us take it anywhere, anytime with minimal effort,” said Master Sgt. Juan De La Rosa, 318th Training Squadron, “A” Flight Chief. “This gives us unlimited hours of practice without spending money on materials and exposing students to hazards.”

The simulator, which is packed into a medium hard-plastic case, can be set up in just minutes and provides users with instant feedback: marking areas in green when the correct amount of paint is used, blue to indicate more is needed and red to show too much paint used. Aside from helping painters become more effective, it also helps protect aircraft from corrosion, which De La Rosa explained is the leading cost of maintenance repair in the Air Force.

“Properly applying paint is vital to the protection of metals used in aircraft construction,” De La Rosa said. “Too much paint and you add weight to



Staff Sgt. Julia Reyna, 318th Training Squadron structures and corrosion instructor, demonstrates the paint simulator at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 28.

VANESSA R. ADAME

“Properly applying paint is vital to the protection of metals used in aircraft construction. Too much paint and you add weight to the aircraft; not enough paint and you run the risk of corrosion developing.”

Master Sgt. Juan De La Rosa,
318th Training Squadron

the aircraft; not enough paint and you run the risk of corrosion developing.”

Students who attend IAAFA's Structure and Corrosion courses spend four weeks in the classroom and train on the paint simulator for the last two weeks of the course. The virtual simulator prepares students to learn the necessary techniques before they step into the paint booth.

“Putting you in that setting is going to help you become more proficient in what you do,” said Staff Sgt. Julia Reyna, 318th Training Squadron Structures and Corrosion Instructor. “It's all about getting comfortable holding that paint gun and developing that muscle memory.”

In approximately one month, Reyna and De La Rosa will deploy to support U.S. Southern Command in a mobile training team. This will be the first time they will travel to support the mission since COVID-19 struck.

“It was hard on us because we lose the hands-on capability that we normally provide here,” De La Rosa said. “I can't pick up a sheet metal shop and take it with me, but this helps us take our paint booth with us anywhere.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Twelve members of the OSI 3rd Field Investigations Squadron, Specialized Surveillance Team, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, participated in advanced driver training in vehicles like the one pictured, and hosted by Texas Department of Public Safety State Troopers.

Local AFOSI agents partner with state DPS

By Wayne Amann

AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Strengthening Partner Engagement” is one of the bedrock strategic lines of effort for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the value of which was showcased recently in the Lone Star State.

Twelve members of the AFOSI’s 3rd Field Investigations Squadron, Specialized Surveillance Team, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, participated in advanced driver training hosted by state troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety Feb. 21-26.

The training was conducted at the DPS Tactical Training Facility in Florence, Texas, about a two-hour drive from San Antonio. It consisted of various dynamic driving courses of high and low-speed maneuvers, designed to enhance SST member skills and judgment behind the wheel at no cost to OSI.

“The Texas Department of Public Safety is the premier law enforcement agency in Texas, offering a world-class training program on Law Enforcement Education, that educates and trains recruits, troopers, agents and the Texas Rangers across the state,” said Lt. Col. James Merenda, 3rd FIS commander.

The Texas DPS also provides training for inter-agency programs with local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

“The advanced driver training is a result of the 3rd FIS/SST’s strong liaison efforts, where we meet Department of Defense, Department of Justice, state and local officials to discuss training exchanges and collaborations,” Merenda said.

This relationship has postured the 3rd FIS/SST to participate in an upcoming collaborative training exchange with the DPS Criminal Investigations Division. During this training, SST will instruct

DPS/CID agents and Texas Rangers in surveillance and counter-surveillance tactics, techniques and procedures.

This is the beginning of a long-term liaison relationship where OSI and DPS can benefit from each other’s subject matter expertise.

“The expectation is that all SST members will receive DPS driving, firearms, etc., training on a yearly basis, at no cost to OSI,” Merenda said. “In exchange, SST will provide surveillance training to various DPS units.”

Specialized Surveillance Team participants shared a few thoughts on how the DPS advanced driver training helps

make them better OSI special agents:

“It highlights SST capabilities and limitations involving motor vehicles in different environments,” one agent said.

“It reinforces the understanding of this perishable, critical skill and how important it is to sustain it,” said another agent.

“Driving while conducting SST operations requires precision, focus, attention to detail, and 100 percent situational awareness. So, it’s imperative to the performance of SST in any environment to refresh these skills annually,” a third agent added.

Through good days and bad: A caregiver supports wife's recovery from invisible wounds

By Air Force
Wounded Warrior Program

There are many roles a person will play in a lifetime. For military families, these roles often cross the threshold of personal and professional life.

As an active duty security forces training instructor at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Tech. Sgt. Justin Goad can list Airman, father, husband, and caregiver as just a few of the roles he cherishes most.

It was not until Goad's wife, retired Master Sgt. Lisa Goad, sought treatment for her post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, that he reconsidered how he could better support her and the Airmen that he mentors each day.

In 2008, three years before Lisa and Justin met, Lisa was a victim of sexual assault. The assault resulted in wounds both seen and unseen, a hip injury, and invisible wounds that she would battle in the years that followed.

In 2011, Lisa changed stations from Guam to New Mexico, where she initially met Justin as her fellow security forces Wingman, though eventually, she came to know him as her husband and the father of her children.

In 2013, Lisa received her first hip surgery to begin healing the physical limitations that she was experiencing. Although she was able to walk, her limitations included certain activities that posed risk for causing further injuries such as running or biking. Lisa received several more surgeries to mend her physical wounds but the invisible ones persisted.

For Lisa, the assault's consequences manifested as anxiety, irritability, an inability to leave the home, and a fear of driving. Justin said that neither he nor Lisa recognized these as signs and symptoms of her PTSD — both were naïve to the extent PTSD could affect someone. Justin's inability to feel he could help his wife turned to a sense of frustration in their relationship.

After years of uncertainty, Lisa was diagnosed with PTSD and attended an Air Force Wounded Warrior Program CARE event in 2016 with the full support of her commanders. She attended two events and then urged Justin to go with her to the third one. Justin followed her lead and took part in



COURTESY PHOTO

Tech. Sgt. Justin Goad gathers with his family.

an event at JBSA where he met other caregivers who shared their experiences supporting their Warriors.

As one of the few male caregivers at the event, Justin was initially reserved and felt awkward listening to others share their vulnerabilities.

"I questioned why I was there. I had come from a culture where men don't talk about their feelings or their problems," Justin recalls. Despite his hesitancy, Justin's perspective shifted over the course of a week as he listened to other caregivers tell their stories, only to realize that he and his wife shared similar experiences to everyone else.

Justin attended a course on PTSD symptoms offered during the Warrior CARE event. Through this activity, Justin began to understand Lisa's behavior and realize his own shortfalls in supporting her as a husband and caregiver.

Assuming broader shoulders as a husband and a father, Justin grew into his role as a caregiver.

The program also gave Justin and Lisa a support network and an outlet to share their experiences without judgment. It allowed them to hear from others about their struggles with invisible wounds.

"Camaraderie and talking with someone who has gone through similar experiences, and really understands you, can change your life. I now have several close friends who I met during the Warrior CARE events who I talk to on a regular basis," Justin said.

As an active duty security forces instructor at JBSA-Lackland, the technical sergeant found an outlet at his work. Through this role, he was able to educate Airmen on how to overcome adversity and challenges in their careers.

The sense of camaraderie Goad felt from the CARE events transferred over to his role at work, where he applied his newfound knowledge on PTSD by encouraging Airmen to talk about their mental health with others.

"Camaraderie and talking with someone who has gone through similar experiences, and really understands you, can change your life. I now have several close friends who I met during the Warrior CARE events who I talk to on a regular basis."

Tech. Sgt. Justin Goad

Having experienced his own struggles sharing his and his wife's vulnerabilities, Goad continues to reduce the concerns of his Airmen, who believe seeking treatment for their invisible wounds could negatively impact their careers.

"You are still a Defender even if you cannot arm. You did not do all this training and dedicate your blood, sweat and tears to earn this badge and beret only to be deprived of that for not being able to arm," he said.

Goad believes his Airmen each have value to serve and be part of the team no matter their mental state.

Editor's note: Invisible wounds are as real and severe as physical wounds. If left untreated, invisible wounds can have negative impacts on an Airman's personal and professional life. It is important for Airmen to recognize signs and symptoms of invisible wounds in themselves and in their peers, to ensure a mentally strong, resilient, and lethal Total Force. The Air Force is committed to supporting Airmen living with invisible wounds by providing a wide range of resources to support their recovery journey. To share your own stories of invisible wounds and/or learn about available resources, visit www.ReadyAirmen.com.

JBSA celebrates Police Week 2021

By Rachel Kersey

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio has been celebrating National Police Week, May 9-15, with signs and activities across the installation.

Col. James H. Masoner, 502nd Security Forces Group commander, said Congress signed the executive order in 1962 making it a week “to honor our law enforcement officers and those that give their lives in the line of duty.”

National Police Week 2021 at JBSA included a round-up of several events honoring officers past and present. The week was bookended by memorials for fallen officers.

On May 9, building 100 on JBSA-Randolph — known as “The Taj” — was illuminated blue in honor of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

From May 11-14, the “Carry the Fallen” event at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston brought community members together to walk, run, ruck, or otherwise move carrying a baton to symbolize carrying on the duty of our fallen officers.

“It is also an opportunity for us to remember the families that were left behind, which is extremely important because there’s not a day dedicated to them,” Masoner said. “That’s what we do when we spend this time together. It’s a time of camaraderie in honor of the lives that people have lost.”

There were also events for present law enforcement officers, including a golf tournament at JBSA-Randolph Golf Course May 10 that brought together more than 60 past and present law enforcement officers and others that wanted to show their support.

“With COVID-19 restrictions, we took about three weeks to plan this event,” Masoner said. “We initially started out with just doing a retreat at each location, but my team felt strongly about having other events to honor this cause, so they put together a team. In three weeks’ time, we came up with all the events that you saw this week. It’s an incredible testament to what this team can do. It’s greatly appreciated because it goes to show exactly how much we honor our law enforcement officers.”



PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. CONEY

Joint Base San Antonio volunteers gather for a 5K ruck march May 13 in support of National Police Week at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex.

Throughout the week, collection bins at the commissaries and Security Forces buildings accepted granola bars, trail mix, water, jerky, energy drinks, chips, drink powder packs, cookie packs, energy bars, gum, candy, packages of nuts or crackers, fruit snacks and more. As a result of the donations, goody bags were created and delivered to on-duty officers throughout the week.

The week concluded with a retreat ceremony at JBSA-Lackland at the Air Force Security Forces Center, featuring Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander, as the guest speaker. She reflected on the importance of our Defenders and the role they play in our safety and security.

“This week always means a lot to me,” Masoner said. “Every year it’s a dedicated time for me to get out and spend some time with my Defenders and spend time with the law enforcement community to say thank you for all their hard work. To the members of the 502d Security Forces Group, Chief Fleming and I truly appreciate everything you do day in and day out.”



Joint Base San Antonio volunteers participate in a 5K ruck march supporting National Police Week at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Annex May 13.

RANDOLPH

AFW2 behind the scenes: JBSA celebrates the Month of the Military Caregiver

By **Tonya McGough**

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROGRAM

In this day, and in this time, and in this moment, I never thought that the fulfillment of life treasures and lessons would be the greatest attributes that I will forever embrace with the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, or AFW2.

Who is an AFW2 Caregiver? An AFW2 Caregiver is a person who provides daily support in some fashion to a wounded, ill or injured Airman in an effort to sustain a healthy, resilient, and rewarding life as they navigate the continuum of care (examples; spouse, mother, father, uncle, aunt, friend, or another close contact of the warrior).

Since 2001, under the wings of the Airman & Family Readiness Center, I've had the amazing opportunity to serve

and support our Warriors and Military families. In 2014, the Department of Defense established the Military Caregiver PEER Forum Initiative. Shortly thereafter I was appointed to stand up the AFW2 Caregiver Support Program (now known as the AFW2 Caregiver and Family Support Program).

I had no idea how taking care of AFW2 Caregivers—our “Unsung Heroes”—would change my life. Through this journey I have learned that the caregiver is the heart of the wounded warrior and the family; the glue that keeps it all together.

Caregivers travel endless emotional journeys, with heartbreaking highs and lows; facing many sleepless nights, oftentimes feeling a sense of isolation.

The heartbreaking truth is no one was taking care of the caregivers. They were



SHAWN SPRAYBERRY

experiencing burn-out that often led to divorce and family break-ups, which inevitably led to warrior regression in care. By failing the caregivers, we were failing our warriors.

The AFW2 Caregiver and Family Support Program is about making sure that our warriors have a strong foundation and that the core of that foundation, the caregiver, has the resiliency tools,

networks, and resources to sustain the journey.

The program emphasizes the importance of the caregiver taking care of themselves in order to be at their best to take care of and support the ones they love. We offer enrollment-welcome calls, wellness calls, videoconference workshops/social hours, resiliency building, caregiver symposiums (which include

resiliency/ life skills, emotional management/humor, marriage enrichment/communication, spiritual self-care, & financial management training), monthly town hall calls, a caregiver closed Facebook group, family support resources, and a caregiver ambassador and mentorship program; to name a few.

During the Month of the Military Caregiver, we want to honor and recognize caregivers for all that they do and the many sacrifices they make each and every day on behalf of their warriors and families. More importantly, we want to say thank you and let you know that no matter the journey, the AFW2 Caregiver and Family Support Team is here for you. You are not alone, and together with your caregiver family, we can make it through.

The journey of the warrior is the journey of the caregiver.

Force generators: Leaders behind the success, growth of Airmen

By **C Arce**

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To maintain the competitive edge over adversaries, the Air Force must select the best Airmen to train and educate the next generation of Airmen.

“We are targeting the highest performers to become force generators,” said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, command chief for the Air Education and Training Command. “In exchange for sending their best to instruct, we will return them to their career field with

improved leadership skills, new confidence and so many more key developmental traits that will make them more outstanding Airmen.”

Maj. Alex Barnett, former Squadron Officer School instructor at Air University, shared how his experience as an instructor better prepared him to become the incoming commander of the 436th Maintenance Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

“As an instructor, I saw 14 new students every cycle, each with their own challenges,”

Barnett said. “Managing them all equipped me with the capability to communicate with a variety of Airmen from different Air Force Specialty Codes. Now, when I become a commander, I can use these networking competencies to ensure I can get my Airmen everything they need to do their jobs.”

Not only do force generator positions provide skills and knowledge, but promotion averages in the last 10 years have also been above average:

► Promotion to chief master sergeant at a rate of 6.3% over

the Air Force average.

► Promotion to senior master sergeant at a rate of 4.6% over the Air Force average.

► Promotion to master sergeant at a rate of 8.4% over the Air Force average.

Airmen volunteer for force generator positions, which are developmental special duty assignments. According to the Developmental Special Duty Program Personnel Services Delivery guide, the DSD program develops leaders by requiring that they oversee and mentor multiple Airmen and that they ensure the well-being

of those mentees and their families.

“AETC provides our force generators world-class training that enables them to become strategically-minded, agile and complex problem-solvers,” Thompson said. “These leaders pave the way, modeling the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.”

Learn more about the DSD program requirements, eligibility and assignment cycles by visiting <https://mypers.af.mil/> (common access card required for access).