

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 18, 2021



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

A 433rd Airlift Wing aircraft 14-personnel maintenance crew works a rarely seen maintenance task on a C-5M Super Galaxy to remove the aircraft's elevator May 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The job task was to remove the elevator to access a crack on the aircraft's hull that needed repair.

Alamo Wing conducts rarely seen maintenance procedure on C-5M

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ARNORTH's G6, DCE teams prepare for hurricane season

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Defense Secretary: 'No one should have to hide who they love to serve the country they love'

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD NEWS

The Department of Defense celebrates the extraordinary achievements of its LGBTQ+ service members, civilian employees and their families' sacrifices during Pride Month, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said June 9 at the Pentagon.

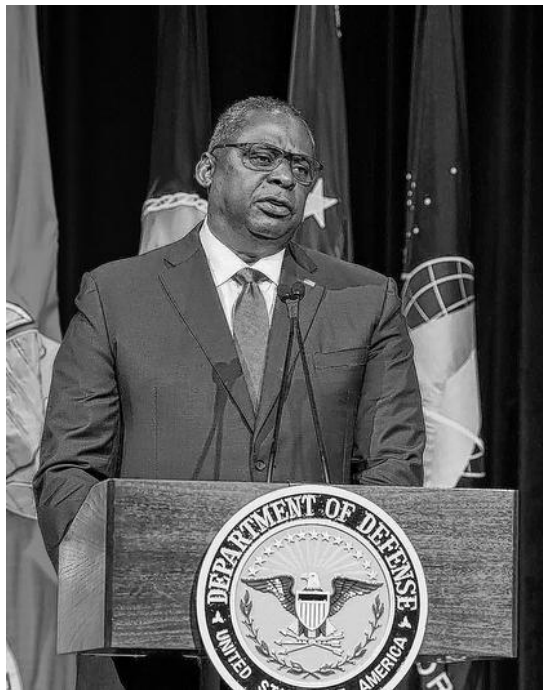
Speaking to an audience that included the department's senior-most leadership, the secretary said as the DOD reflects on the progress it's made in making sure that everyone who wants to serve and is qualified, can do so with dignity and respect.

"We know we have more work to do, but thanks to your courage, advocacy and dedication, the Department of Defense has been able to do more to secure LGBTQ+ rights than at any other time in history," Austin said.

That includes efforts to ensure all military families and spouses receive the benefits their loved ones have earned, and to which they are entitled; to helping veterans who previously were forced out because of their sexual orientation to apply to correct their records, or — where appropriate — to return to service, he said.

"It's often said that progress is a relay race and not a single event. That's certainly been true when it comes to the pioneers who fought for this community's civil rights in the military," the secretary said.

Throughout American history, LGBTQ+ citizens have fought to defend our rights and freedoms — from the founding of our nation to the Civil War, from the trenches of two World Wars to Korea and Vietnam and from Afghanistan to Iraq, the



STAFF SGT. BRITTANY A. CHASE
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III delivers remarks during the 10th annual Pride Month celebration at the Pentagon June 9.

secretary said. "They fought for our country even when our country wouldn't fight for them."

Austin noted how not every advocate of this community's rights has been an LGBTQ+ community member. Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, was one leader who took a courageous stand against the law, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which led directly to its repeal 10 years ago.

Today, the department commemorates the repeal of that law and welcomes a new generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Guardians and Marines, openly and

proudly serving their country, Austin said.

"And today, we reaffirm that transgender rights are human rights and that America is safer — it is better — when every qualified citizen can serve with pride and dignity," the secretary said.

He called such efforts real progress and emphasized how the repeal was hard-fought and hard-won.

However, the DOD's work isn't done until it tackles the challenge of sexual assault and harassment in the force, he emphasized.

"And we know that service members from this

community are at elevated risk of this crime. Our work isn't done until we recognize that the health of the force fully incorporates mental health, including for LGBTQ+ service members," the secretary pointed out.

"That's why we must recommit to treating all wounds, both visible and invisible. And our work still isn't done until we create a safe and supportive workplace for everyone — one free from discrimination, harassment and fear," Austin said.

"No one should have to hide who they love to serve the country they love," he said. "No service member who is willing to put their life on the line to keep our country safe should feel unsafe because of who they are."

Further, the secretary said, "No citizen who is qualified, willing and able to do the job should be turned away. So yes, we've got more to do. But I'm confident we'll get there because of all of you, and because of the LGBTQ+ service members and civilians around the world who never stop living the values they so bravely defend."

The secretary said he knows this community is especially proud this month and rightfully so. "I'm proud, too," he said, adding, "proud every month and every day to call you my teammates and to serve alongside you — because your lives, careers, service and stories are living proof that we are stronger and more effective together."

Austin thanked the LGBTQ+ community for their service, their skill, and change and progress as they continue to lead. "It matters very much to the defense of this nation," he said.

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. It is unfortunate that we cannot get proper customer service from our Finance squadron. It doesn't help to send ICE comments, so this is my next option.

Many members at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston have difficulty using their Customer Service Portal, or CSP. The system will not identify the @mail.mil address, although these members have an af.mil account, the system does not recognize that either.

This issue has been brought to their attention, but they always say the employee needs to use the af.mil account.

Recently, I submitted an action report and informed them I was submitting it on behalf of someone at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. I asked them to correspond with the person via email because of the issue and provided the employee's email address and phone.

While I was on leave, the finance representative responded stating the only way they are supposed to communicate with customers is through the portal and wanted me to be a go-between.

Needless to say, I was appalled. What if this information was time-sensitive and I didn't get the information until it's too late? We are talking money matters. I informed the finance rep that they need to find a solution, since having me as a go-between is not the answer nor was it good customer service.

This is only one of many issues. As their customers, we really need the Comptroller Squadron's higher leadership to step in and evaluate



COURTESY GRAPHIC /

the way they are using that portal. Please take this matter seriously.

A. Thank you for taking the time to communicate to us your customer service experience. We are sorry to hear that your expectations were not met.

The 502d Comptroller Squadron has been rigorously advertising the Comptroller Services Portal and its capabilities extensively through multiple avenues since its inception to include Mission Partners forums, mass emails, the First Shirt Network and social media platforms.

CSP has been praised for its ease of use, as it eliminates commute and wait time in-line within our lobbies and has been lauded for its effectiveness.

When CSP is inaccessible, we have been directing members to use the finance Org Boxes in lieu of CSP. Members who are unable to access CSP can use the following Org Boxes: 502CPTS.FMF.JBSAMILPAY@us.af.mil for military DHA users, out-of-service members, and military who are having issues accessing CSP. 502CPTS.FMF.CivilianPay@us.af.mil

for civilian DHA users, and civilians who are having issues accessing CSP.

We will continue to advocate the need for DHA and ARMY network integration to the CSP development team and try to find a solution for the mail.mil issues that prevent DHA and ARMY network users from accessing CSP.

Until a fix is provided within CSP, the 502d Org Boxes should provide a platform to support financial needs for members unable to access the portal. The 502 CPTS will continue to focus on customer service training and development in support of the greater JBSA community.

Q. Are there any future plans to open the walk-in customer service for JBSA-Lackland Finance Office with regular duty hours?

Currently, the only walk-in services provided are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The line to be serviced at 11 a.m. is so long that customers have to wait for an hour, without being able to maintain a 6-foot distance due to

limited space in the hallway.

A. The 502d CPTS has extended the customer service counter hours since moving to HPCON Bravo. Our new counter hours are 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Our customer service counter is currently open and available for all members that do not have the capability to generate a Comptroller Squadron Portal case or have not received a response to their open CSP case within 7 duty days.

CPTS continues to operate in compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards and published JBSA Guidance Memorandums. Placards are posted in the 502d CPTS hallway and the floor is marked with red tape accordingly to enforce the 6-foot social distancing requirement.

We encourage all customers to bring up any and all social distancing breaches to our attention and give us the opportunity to enforce the base policies and guidelines when violations occur.

We apologize for any instances we may have missed and pledge to continue enforcing appropriate safety measures.

Active duty Soldiers to pin on corporal after BLC, promotion boards

By Joseph Laedan
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Soldiers soon will shoulder the responsibilities of noncommissioned officers earlier in their careers, following a new Army directive that will promote all junior enlisted members to the rank of corporal prior to making sergeant.

Beginning July 1, all Soldiers with the rank of specialist who have been recommended for advancement by a promotion board and completed the Basic Leader Course, or BLC, will be laterally promoted to corporal, a junior NCO.

Soldiers who currently hold the corporal rank must qualify for the promotion board and graduate from BLC to remain corporals, or they will be laterally assigned back to the grade of specialist.

Further, Soldiers who meet the requirements will wear the corporal rank regardless of the designated grade of their assigned duty positions as they make the transition to the NCO corps.

Soldiers will not receive additional pay

when making corporal, nor will they lose any of their base salary if they transition back to specialist, said Sgt. Maj. Kenyatta Gaskins, Directorate of Military Personnel Management sergeant major.

The directive will apply to active duty Soldiers and Active Guard Reserve members. The instruction will apply to the Army Reserve starting Oct. 1.

"We want to get after leading, teaching and mentoring our junior enlisted Soldiers early," Gaskins said. "This is a junior leader development process and that's how we're looking at this."

In the past, the Army selected Soldiers with leadership potential to higher graded positions to become corporals. Now Soldiers who have been recommended for promotion to sergeant and completed the required training will have that distinction.

Gaskins said that the length of time a Soldier spends as a corporal will vary but each Soldier will be expected to wear the rank for a period of time before transitioning to sergeant.

"This is a change in culture," said Gaskins, who held the rank of corporal

earlier in his career. "This is not something we're used to."

The change coincides with the Army's plans to invest more in the leadership development of younger Soldiers, supporting Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston's "This is My Squad" initiative. That effort includes a push to further strengthen the Army's junior NCO corps and will instill more than just leadership skills.

Promotion boards to sergeant and staff sergeant include situational-based questions on sexual harassment, misuse of drugs and alcohol and suicide prevention. Soldiers will also be quizzed on suicide prevention, physical fitness, and mental health to gauge their reaction to such incidents and to make sure they can care for Soldiers in those situations.

Under the directive, unit cohesion will be strengthened at the lowest levels by promoting Soldiers to corporal.

"We rely on junior leaders to build cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and mentally and physically fit," Grinston said. "In many cases, a specialist is charged with that

responsibility. This allows us to recognize their role as noncommissioned officers and ensure they're getting the coaching and mentorship they need to be successful."

Gaskins said by developing leadership traits earlier in military careers, Soldiers will be able to identify and prevent what Army senior leaders have labeled as "corrosives" to the force including sexual assault and harassment, discrimination and suicide.

The Army also announced that beginning June 1, 2022, for active duty, and Active Guard Reserve Soldiers and Oct. 1, 2022, for Army Reserve, Soldiers must be recommended by a promotion board to Sergeant before attending BLC.

One of the oldest ranks in the Army, the corporal rank has been called the "backbone" of the Army's NCO corps, Gaskins said.

Corporals earn E-4 pay, but outrank specialists having the distinction of being NCOs. The Army charges them with leading the Army's smallest units, teams of Soldiers, while overseeing the care, training and readiness of fellow troops.

TRICARE now offers health coverage options for qualified young adults

By TRICARE Communications

Is your child graduating from college this year? Or, are they a recent graduate? This is typically a time of transitions, whether to a new job, home, or city. It's also a time for many new graduates to transition to their own independent health care coverage. If your child is one of them, TRICARE Young Adult, or TYA, is one of several health care coverage options that may fit their needs.

"Recent graduates and young adults have lots of options for finding health coverage," said Debra Fisher, program analyst with the Policy and Programs Section of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. "It's important to explore all of the different ways you can get health coverage so you don't experience a gap in coverage. One option you may have to maintain health coverage is TRICARE Young Adult."

TYA coverage isn't automatic. If your child is graduating college or aging out of regular TRICARE, here are some key things to know about TRICARE Young Adult.

What is TRICARE Young Adult?

TYA is a premium-based health care plan that qualified young adults can purchase after eligibility for regular TRICARE coverage ends at age 21 (or 23 if enrolled in college). TYA is only available for individuals and isn't offered as a family plan. When you enroll, you can choose either TRICARE Prime (in certain areas) or TRICARE Select coverage. If you live in a US Family

Health Plan (USFHP) service area and are qualified, you can choose to enroll in USFHP for your TYA Prime option. How you get care depends on which option you choose.

As stated in the TRICARE Young Adult Fact Sheet, TYA coverage includes medical and pharmacy benefits. However, it doesn't include dental and vision coverage. You must pay monthly premiums for TYA, as well as associated costs for care. To see current TYA costs, visit the TRICARE Compare Cost Tool.

Who qualifies for TRICARE Young Adult?

Your child may qualify to purchase TYA if they meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Unmarried, adult child of an eligible uniformed service sponsor
- ▶ At least age 21 (age 23 if a full-time student) but not yet age 26
- ▶ Ineligible to enroll in their own employer-sponsored health plan
- ▶ Ineligible for other TRICARE program coverage
- ▶ Isn't a member of the uniformed services

How does a child enroll in TRICARE Young Adult?

"You must show as eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to enroll in TYA," as described in the TRICARE Young Adult Fact Sheet. If you qualify, you may purchase TYA coverage at any time. Unlike TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select plans, TRICARE Open Season doesn't apply to TYA.

What if your child isn't already registered in DEERS? You must add your child to the system. Once your child shows as eligible in DEERS, you can purchase TYA online, by phone, by fax, or through the mail. If you enroll by fax or mail, download the TRICARE Young Adult Application (DD Form 2947) and submit it to your regional contractor. Your completed application must include the first two months of premium payments. After you get confirmation that your application processed, your child must obtain a new ID card at an ID card office.

With TYA, you can end your coverage at any time. There are also certain changes in status that will no longer make you eligible to continue with TYA. For example, if your young adult gets married or becomes eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, their TYA coverage ends.

"The sponsor should keep all information updated in DEERS whenever there's a change in family or military status," said Fisher.

If your child doesn't purchase TYA or is no longer eligible, another option they may qualify for is the Continued Health Care Benefit Program. This health plan provides temporary health coverage for 18-36 months after losing TRICARE. You can also search for other health plan options available for young adults through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Keep in mind, when children become an adult it's a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event (QLE). A QLE may mean different TRICARE health plan options are available to you and your family members.

DOD gives update on Tenant Bill of Rights for privatized housing

DOD News

The Defense Department has made strides toward ensuring that service members and their families have safe, quality housing that's well-maintained by privatized housing companies, a top DOD housing official said.

Paul Cramer, who's performing the duties of the assistant defense secretary for sustainment and chief housing officer, said the DOD has prioritized reforms under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, as well as reforms to rebuild tenant trust and help maintain the financial viability of MHPI housing projects. According to Cramer, the initial phase has focused on implementing the MHPI Tenant Bill of Rights as a visible commitment to military members and their families.

"The department has issued

the policy guidance necessary to implement all 18 tenant rights at all MHPI housing projects," Cramer said. "Through negotiation and lots of work with our privatized housing partners, nearly all of the MHPI companies have agreed to implement all 18 tenant rights at their existing privatized housing projects," he added.

Congress recognized in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act that the retroactive application of the 18 tenant rights at existing projects requires voluntary agreement by the respective MHPI companies. The DOD can't unilaterally change the terms of the complex, public-private partnerships that established the MHPI projects.

Cramer confirmed that, with few exceptions, the DOD expects all 18 tenant rights to be fully available at all installations with privatized

"Military members and their families who are tenants of MHPI housing should check with the property manager or the government's installation housing office to confirm which of the tenant rights have been implemented at their installation."

**Paul Cramer, assistant defense secretary
for sustainment and chief housing officer**

housing by the end of FY 2021, noting that a number of MHPI housing projects have already incorporated those rights and many are providing all but the final right — standard documentation, focused on a universal lease framework.

"Military members and their families who are tenants of MHPI housing should check with the property manager or the government's installation housing office to confirm which of the tenant

rights have been implemented at their installation," Cramer said.

The universal lease framework will standardize the general content of the MHPI tenant lease to the maximum extent possible given the need for tenant leases to comply with state and local requirements. MHPI housing projects at most installations will start using the new universal lease framework for prospective

tenants entering a lease for new MHPI housing, typically when tenants have their next, permanent change-of-station move.

In addition to issuing the policies to implement all 18 tenant rights, the DOD has issued housing policies to strengthen the department's oversight of MHPI housing projects. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has also established a deputy assistant defense secretary for housing to support the chief housing officer in oversight of the MHPI program.

"The department's priority going forward is to implement additional MHPI reforms that improve [the] safety, quality and maintenance of the privatized housing, and to ensure accountability at all levels within DOD and MHPI companies to perform housing oversight as originally intended at the outset of the MHPI program," Cramer said.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

MEDCoE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Center now open for business

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Center June 2.

With the establishment of the center, MEDCoE's main three People First assets, the Command Chaplain, Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, sections, are now in one central location within the command footprint.

Hosted by the MEDCoE command team of Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster and Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier, the ceremony was held outside of the DEI Center's main office at 3250 Koehler Road, building 1350 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The MEDCoE DEI Center is organized to help operationalize the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Annex of the Army People Strategy published in September 2020.

The center serves as the principal source of education and training support for leaders and as a resource center for Soldiers, Department of Defense Civilians, and dependents, aimed at combating harmful behaviors, like racism/extremism, sexual assault/harassment and suicide, which erode individual and unit resilience and readiness.

LeMaster, who directed the establishment of the center in February 2020, urged the staff and unit leaders in attendance



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Center June 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Pictured (left to right) Chaplain (Maj.) Oyedeji Idowu, 32d Medical Brigade Chaplain and acting command chaplain; Capt. Chad Beach, Director, DEI Center; Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE Commanding General; Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier, MEDCoE Command Sergeant Major; Master Sgt. Jachen Smith, MEDCoE Equal Opportunity Advisor; and Curtis Warren, MEDCoE Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program Manager.

for the ribbon-cutting to spread the word about the grand opening to the thousands of employees, permanent party cadre and Soldiers in training within the command.

With a staff of more than 3,000 personnel, MEDCoE trains and educates nearly 32,000 Soldiers annually in 257 training and education programs in support of the Army's medical military occupational specialties and areas of concentration.

"Proliferate the information throughout the ranks," LeMaster said. "I am counting on leaders to ensure those who need these essential resources are not only aware where the DEI Center is located, but also understand all of the services they provide."

Charpentier echoed LeMaster's appreciation for the center's support staff and leaders who are supporting

their efforts.

"This is another opportunity for MEDCoE leaders to lead through change," Charpentier said. "Our organization continues to adjust, adapt and keep up with the modernization efforts within the Army and our nation."

Capt. Chad Beach, a 70B Health Services Administrator who just completed a successful command of Company A, 264th Medical Battalion, is the newly appointed director of the MEDCoE DEI Center.

"The center helps to synchronize embedded personnel support assets, as well as coordinates with local installation support partners and programs to provide assistance to all members of MEDCoE, on an individual, group, organizational and strategic level," Beach said.

Beach, who served as the officer in charge of the

MEDCoE Diversity Operational Planning Team since its creation in September 2020, said he is honored to now serve as the first director of the MEDCoE DEI Center. He remarked on the personal significance of holding the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the start of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

Originally from Idaho, Beach commissioned in January 2014 and has had a variety of leader and staff positions in the last seven years. He is dual military, married to Capt. Baker Beach, the commander of Company C, Troop Command, Brooke Army Medical Center, since August of 2019.

"Officially opening the doors of the MEDCoE DEI Center at the beginning of LGBT Pride Month has a special place in my heart," Beach said.

He admits to hiding his

sexual orientation for much of his Army career for fear that it would ultimately hinder him professionally, especially in instances when he had an immediate supervisor who was non-affirming of the LGBT community.

"It was difficult to hide such a fundamental part of who I was and balance that with the rigor of Army life," he added.

Beach hopes the MEDCoE DEI Center and its associated sections provide a safe, non-judgmental place for everyone to feel welcome and supported. He is proud to assist the Army's vision of building cohesive teams that secure the Total Army Force.

"We must make everyone understand that they are a valued member of our diverse and inclusive team and that they deserve equitable treatment and opportunity," Beach said. "I hope that the initiatives and programs that come out of this center help change the culture for every Soldier, Department of Defense civilian and family member."

The MEDCoE DEI Center is open for walk-ins to the main office building 1350, room 110; SHARP, room 105; Equal Opportunity, room 113; and the Command Chaplain Section, room 121. A center webpage will be available by the end of the month on the MEDCoE website at www.medcoe.army.mil.

For more information about DEI Center services, call 210-221-5254. For after-hours assistance, call the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 887-995-5247 or the Suicide Prevention Helpline at 800-273-8255.

502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron welcomes new commander



BRIAN J. VALENCIA

Col. Steven Strain (left), 502d Installation Support Group commander, passes the 502d Logistics Readiness Squadron colors to Maj. Robbie Walsh as he assumes command of the 502d LRS during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 8.

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A change of command ceremony was held June 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to welcome Maj. Robbie Walsh as the new commander of the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Walsh has been attending Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, since July 2020, and his previous assignment was as commander of the 17th LRS at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, from May 2019 to July 2020.

The new commander, who has served at numerous logistics readiness squadron throughout the Air Force since 2009, received his bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics and master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle University, where he was commissioned through the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Walsh takes over for Lt. Col. Glen G. Langdon, who led the squadron since July 2019. Col. Steven Strain, 502d

Installation Support Group commander, officiated the ceremony.

The 502nd LRS is the largest logistics readiness squadron in the Air Force, providing logistics support to 82,000 personnel at the largest joint base in the Department of Defense, spanning 88 square miles.

Walsh now leads more than 800 personnel executing a \$10 million budget in support of a \$1 billion logistics enterprise. The squadron supports flying training, Air Force Basic Military Training, Battlefield Airman training, joint medical training, as well as real-world contingency operations.

The squadron also supports 175 aircraft generating 33,000 sorties per year on three airfields. It also supports the deployment of 1,900 Airmen annually in support of combatant commander requirements and directs contingency planning and deployments in support of U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South, and Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the state of Texas.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADETS LEARN ABOUT BLACKHAWKS AT LOCAL ARMY AIRFIELD



A U.S. Army warrant officer briefs U.S. Air Force Academy cadets about the flight capabilities of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Martindale Army Airfield in San Antonio May 28. The cadets, interested in becoming helicopter pilots, visited the National Guard base to learn more about the aircraft and its flight capabilities.

COURTESY PHOTO



BETHANY L. HUFF

Soldiers assigned to various Defense Coordinating Element Regions within U.S. Army North culminate their training with a live collaborative software meeting, during the DCE Region Communications noncommissioned officer training May 17- 21.

ARNORTH's G6, DCE teams prepare for hurricane season

By Bethany Huff

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As June 1 marked the official start of hurricane season, the communication team at U.S. Army North took the opportunity to train Soldiers in the Defense Coordinating Elements and the 76th Operational Response Command on communication methods in disaster responses at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from May 17-21.

What was normally an annual exercise, this DCE Region Communications noncommissioned officer training was postponed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The importance of this training is twofold," said Sgt. Maj. Jeffery St. John, the G6 Assistant Chief of Staff for U.S. Army North. "We want to put names to faces between the DCE region communications NCO and the G6 staff. Then we want to ensure their ability to proficiently operate all of U.S. Army North's tactical voice and data communication equipment."

Each DCE region has a disaster that's more common in their area than in other regions. For certain regions, hurricanes hit the hardest, while in others wildland fires devastate the areas, explained St. John. However, this doesn't stop a disaster from striking in any given region.

"These Soldiers are able to network

and integrate together to teach each other lessons learned from their own region," St. John said. "This allows them to lean forward and draw from each other's experiences."

People leading the response efforts is half the battle, knowing how to use the equipment is the next hurdle. With the equipment being commercialized, there isn't a standardized Army how-to manual. This training allows for familiarization as well as proficiency drills.

"Having a solid knowledge of what equipment is available will help establish communication quicker during a response," said Staff Sgt. Jason Christensen, an information systems NCO for the 76th Operational Response Command. "Sometimes the first thing you pull out, it's your favorite thing, doesn't work, you need to know how to use those other pieces of equipment."

Putting the right people with the right equipment amplifies U.S. Army North's ability to respond quickly when a natural disaster strikes.

"We integrate every piece of equipment and tie it into our joint network operation center to ensure that everything works correctly," St. John said.

"I feel really confident in my abilities to operate the equipment, use it correctly, and keep it going through a response," Christensen said.

Austin Smith: Life is full of second chances

By Airman 1st Class
Tyler McQuiston

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Recovering Marines assigned to the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East detachment at San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC, participated in this year's Marine Corps Trials April 5-23.

The trials, multi-sport competitions for wounded, ill, or injured service members and veterans, aims to rehabilitate and develop camaraderie among participants. It serves as the first level of competition for participating members and selected winners can go on to compete in the Warrior Games.

"After more than six years, I continue to work with the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion because I can see the positive impact that adapted sports have in recovering service members and their families," said Nicole Neumann, Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program manager.

One of the recovering participants from the SAMMC detachment is Lance Cpl. Austin Smith.

Smith grew up in Robson, Texas, and at a young age, he knew he wanted to join the military. Although a few of his relatives served in the Army, he had other plans.

"I decided that I wanted to do something harder than the rest of my family, so I joined the Marine Corps," Smith said. "I was lucky enough to get a job as a heavy equipment operator, and it's been a dream job for me."

Smith's boot camp and infantry school took place at Camp Pendleton, California. He was then stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for his military occupational specialty code training.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TYLER MCQUISTON

U. S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Austin Smith, recovering service member assigned to the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East detachment at San Antonio Military Medical Center, retrieves arrows from a target during the archery competition of the Marine Corps Trials April 16 in San Antonio.

A typical day at Fort Leonard Wood for Smith consisted of physical training, a routine room inspection, and heavy equipment operator training.

"Throughout the day, I would help the instructors prep tractors and stage equipment for the new Marines in training," Smith said.

In early March of 2019, while still at training, Smith made a life-changing discovery.

Smith woke up at his normal time of 3:30 a.m. and realized that a softball-sized lump had formed on his right testicle.

"I was completely taken by surprise," Smith said. "I thought it was just swelling and didn't know what to think."

After two weeks, Smith began noticing lumps

forming on his chest and decided to take action. He contacted the clinic to set up an appointment. The examining doctor performed a full-body physical and noticed the severity of the situation right away.

"When the doctor told me that I had cancer, I couldn't believe it," Smith said. "He told me right away that it was bad."

Smith was diagnosed with stage 3A testicular cancer.

Smith decided not to tell his family about his condition until he knew what the next course of action was. His first sergeant put in a transfer request for him to move from Fort Leonard Wood to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston under the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East detachment at SAMMC.

"I was excited to move to

Texas, but I was also scared because I knew that was when my chemotherapy treatment would start," Smith said. "I knew when I got there I would have to face my family, and I wasn't sure I was ready for that."

When Smith arrived in Texas, he was immediately welcomed by other recovering Marines. He was informed about the treatment he would be receiving, and about all that is offered to service members at the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East.

"I was told about the Marine Corps Trials, and Warrior Games by two Marine recovering service members, and they both were Warrior Game gold medalists," Smith said. "They were one of the reasons why I was looking forward to participating in

the games as soon as they became available to me."

Smith had a fellow Marine who helped him through his transfer to Texas and his treatment process.

"My good friend, Ryan Gunter, helped me a lot, both mentally and physically," Smith said. "He forced me to go to the gym so my body would be strong enough for chemo."

Smith said Gunter volunteered to take him to his doctor appointments and was there if he needed anything.

"I assigned Smith as my number two in the unit," Gunter said. "At the time, he was battling cancer, stress, a full workload, and I never had any problems. Smith has an almost infallible character and mentality."

After a few surgeries and aggressive cancer treatments, Smith is in remission but sustained some permanent damage. He said his motor skills and memory were both affected, and due to his surgeries, he is unable to have children.

Soon after his recovery, Smith was able to begin training for the Marine Corps Trials.

"These games give me a chance to show that no matter what I've been through, I'm still able to adapt," he said. "It shows that through the struggle, I still have the heart and the will to train."

This will likely be Smith's last year in the Wounded Warrior program as an active duty service member, but he still plans to compete in the trials as a veteran.

"I had to push myself to my ultimate goal to be here today," he said at this year's trials. "The biggest part of being a Wounded Warrior is learning how to function with your new life and learn from those experiences to make yourself better."

410th CSB welcomes new commander

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade welcomed their new commander during a change-of-command ceremony June 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Col. Daphne Austin assumed command of the brigade from Col. Robert McDonald in a ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler, the incoming commanding general for the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Following the traditional passing of organizational colors from McDonald to Austin, Beeler commended the outgoing commander for his leadership and achievements during his time with the 410th CSB before welcoming its new leader.

"I stand before a brigade that has consistently delivered for the nation at home and around the globe. Your magnificent teamwork serves as a model for the entire Army contracting enterprise. We are thankful for the proven bravery and outstanding leadership of Col. Robert 'Mack' McDonald, tested and triumphant in the crucible of 36 months of brigade command," Beeler said. "We welcome Col. Daphne Austin, abundant in competence, confidence, character and commitment, who is without a doubt prepared for this opportunity and this command."

Austin comes to the 410th CSB following her assignment as the Mission and Installation Contracting Command chief of staff the past year. After thanking Beeler for officiating the ceremony and her family and parents for their support throughout her 23 years of service, Austin said she is honored to lead the brigade.

"I am indeed proud to serve as your commander. I will do my very best to lead in a way that distinguishes this brigade as the top-notch warfighter enabler that it is, and also amplify that our people are the most important asset of this organization," Austin said. "We win by taking care of our people, looking up and out and down and in. That means understanding executing in accordance with our higher commander's intent, while also understanding our roles in delivering the most quality service and support."

Austin was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps



DANIEL P. ELKINS

Col. Daphne Austin expresses her gratitude for the opportunity to lead the 410th Contracting Support Brigade during a change-of-command ceremony June 8 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

through the Army ROTC program at Columbus State University in 1998 and served a number of operational assignments before joining the Army Acquisition Corps in 2007. She has since served in acquisition positions of increasing responsibility as well as deployments to Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

McDonald led the brigade through numerous missions, exercises and contract executions since July 2018. He simultaneously commanded ACC-Afghanistan during a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

During the ceremony, McDonald acknowledged the last three years at the brigade have been both gratifying and challenging.

"The 410th with its unique mission of supporting U.S. Army South, U.S. Southern Command and all the other elements within Central and South America coupled with a deployment to Afghanistan and an ongoing pandemic would challenge even the best of leaders," McDonald said. "What made it successful and easy at times were the Soldiers and civilians within the command. They did it with professionalism and competence."

Those achievements by the brigade during McDonald's tenure include the execution of 4,800 contract actions valued at more than \$264 million; the acquisition support of 25 exercises focused on joint-nation partnerships, stability and shaping events; and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The 410th CSB is responsible for the planning and execution of contingency contracting support for Army South in support of Army and joint operations throughout the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility.

LACKLAND

960th Cyberspace Wing reaches out to local high school students

By Samantha Mathison
960TH CYBERSPACE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 960th Cyberspace Wing visited students in the Judson High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Converse, Texas, as part of a diversity and inclusion community outreach initiative May 19.

Approximately 89 students attending in-person and virtually interacted with 16 cyberspace technicians with various backgrounds and experiences.

Retired Lt. Col. Mark Hiatt, Judson High School senior aerospace science instructor, invited members of the wing to speak due to an interest in cyberspace amongst the students.

"I believe the kids are going to get an understanding of the different types of career fields within cyber," Hiatt said. "My hopes are these students will hear and see a different perspective of all the different jobs and demographics within the Air Force."

Capt. Brandon Kyle, 50th Network Warfare Squadron operations flight commander, helped plan the event as part of a diversity and inclusion initiative within the wing.

"We're just here to bolster their interest in not only the Air Force Reserve, but for the active duty side, as well," Kyle said. "We want to give them some encouragement and direction on where they may want to go in their next steps in life."

Kyle said that one of the reasons he joined the Air



Maj. Nathan Allen (left), 960th Cyberspace Wing operations support flight, and Senior Airman Manuel Chairez, 426th Network Warfare Squadron cyber operator, talk with Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students at Judson High School, Converse, Texas, May 19.

Force was because he talked with someone who had a similar background, which was why he felt it was important to give these students exposure to various cyberspace professionals.

"Diversity and inclusion is important across the Air Force as a whole," he said. "If we can't bring different walks of life and different demographics in, we can't have a force that's going to really win in battle."

According to Kyle, speaking with cyberspace professionals

also has the added benefit of raising awareness in online safety.

He said they can teach kids at a young age the importance of operating in cyberspace safely and, as a result, set up the U.S. as a whole for a better future.

Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Poston, 426th Network Warfare Squadron platform development superintendent, was also in attendance and said that cyberspace is becoming more relevant in current and future battlefields,

so it's important to raise interest in cyber-related jobs in younger generations.

"The world is going to a more digital way of doing things," Poston said. "Children who are interested in cyber and who are growing up in that realm better understand how it works, which prepares them for a future that some of us older people in the military may not expect."

The benefits of reaching out and engaging with students are two-fold, according to Chief Master Sgt. Christopher

"I believe the kids are going to get an understanding of the different types of career fields within cyber. My hopes are these students will hear and see a different perspective of all the different jobs and demographics within the Air Force."

Retired Lt. Col. Mark Hiatt, Judson High School senior aerospace science instructor

Howard, 960th CW acting command chief, and 960th Cyberspace Operations Group superintendent.

"This gave our Airmen a chance to interact with the community," Howard said. "It helped to reaffirm some of the reasons why our Airmen joined; it helps them find that sense of purpose and also to give back to the community."

"The other piece is the local community can know exactly what we're doing, why we're doing it and see that there's a lot of passion, a lot of heart and intelligence that sits in these uniforms. So this is their opportunity to ask questions, provide some development, and gain a greater understanding of the Air Force and the military as a whole."

SAMANTHA MATHISON

Alamo Wing conducts rarely seen maintenance procedure on C-5M Super Galaxy

By Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona
433RD AIRLIFT WING

Maintenance personnel from the 433rd Airlift Wing conducted rarely seen maintenance on the C-5M Super Galaxy elevator May 20-27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

During a routine preflight check, a crack on the hull of the aircraft was discovered near the aircraft's elevator; the part of the aircraft that changes the aircraft's pitch while in flight.

Due to the location of the crack on the aircraft, aerospace engineers were consulted as to how to proceed with repairs. After a closer look, engineers prompted a maintenance procedure that is typically accomplished on a 20-25-year interval.

"This is a very precise and complex procedure that was recommended by aircraft engineers to be able to accomplish repairs on the aircraft," said Victor Morales, 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron civilian aircraft mechanic and lead ground supervisor coordinator for this repair. "Because of the location of the damage on the aircraft, this repair is going to be difficult and take some time."

Repairs took approximately 10 days to accomplish, which grounded the aircraft until repairs were complete. Morales stated that weather was considered in getting the repairs finished as it had an impact on their ability to use specific equipment to get the job done.

Overall, it took 14 aircraft mechanics working 10-hour shifts to get the job done. Since removing the aircraft's elevator is an interval procedure done every 20-25



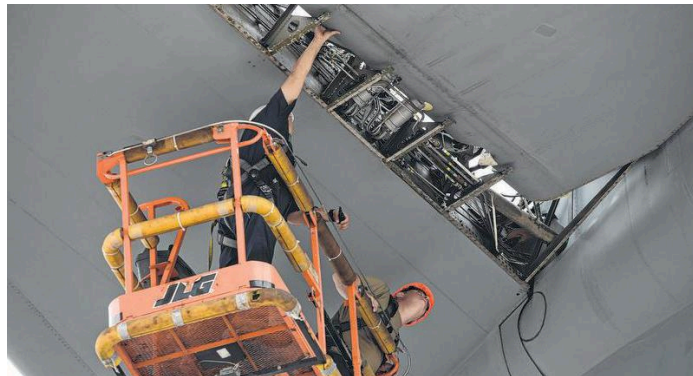
SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

A 433rd Airlift Wing aircraft 14-personnel maintenance crew works a rarely seen maintenance task on a C-5M Super Galaxy to remove the aircraft's elevator May 20 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The job task was to remove the elevator to access a crack on the aircraft's hull that needed repair.

years, Morales stated that this was a good opportunity for the wing's personnel to gain experience doing such a task.

"For some of the younger maintenance personnel, this is the first time conducting this type of task on the aircraft, while for others it may be the last time they'll be doing this type of work on the aircraft," Morales said.

Current wing maintenance personnel hadn't seen this type of aircraft discrepancy. This prompted maintenance to contact other C-5M units to check their aircraft for this type of damage.



TECH. SGT. IRAM CARMONA

Staff Sgt. Reed Wilson and Senior Airman Justin Dunn, 433rd Airlift Wing aircraft maintainers, monitor a C-5M Super Galaxy elevator as it is being reinstalled onto the aircraft May 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

23rd Intelligence Squadron welcomes commander

By 2nd Lt. Jasmine Mossbarger

23RD INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON,
655TH ISR WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Jennifer Mulder, commander of the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, passed the guidon to Lt. Col. Stephanie "Chappy" Hahn, the new commander for the 23rd Intelligence Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland April 10.

Hahn replaced Lt. Col. Sarah Yoshida, who served as the 23rd IS commander from June 2019 to February 2021. Hahn has more than 16 years in the intelligence field and was previously dual-hatted as the deputy commander and director of staff for the 512th Intelligence Squadron.

Hahn is a graduate of Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a bachelor's in political science. She earned two master's

degrees from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, and Air Command and Staff College, respectively.

As the daughter of a military family, Hahn understands the significance and responsibility of taking command.

"My assumption of command means the world not just to me, but to my entire family. Having two retired O-6 parents, both of whom were commanders, it was both a proud and humbling moment for all of us. For my children, although they are young, I want them to see that girls — and one day the women they will become — can do anything they set their minds to," she said.

When asked to define her leadership style, Hahn quoted John C. Maxwell.

"True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers, not to enrich the leader." Hahn wholeheartedly believes in the tenant of servant leadership and modeling



COURTESY PHOTO

Col. Jennifer Mulder (left), commander of the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, passes the guidon to incoming 23rd Intelligence Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Stephanie "Chappy" Hahn (right) as Senior Master Sgt. David Stanford (center), 23rd IS operations superintendent, looks on.

respect for others regardless of their rank or position. The new commander's top priorities are, "Take Care of

the Mission, Take Care of Airmen and Be Innovative."

During her tenure, Hahn will work to operationalize

23rd IS Unit Training Assemblies so members can continue to make strides in the mission space. She will also focus on fostering community and promoting resiliency in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hahn challenged 23rd IS personnel to propose creative ways that meet both goals.

"I was blown away by both the caliber of Airmen I met in the 23rd IS at every turn and the mission they are executing," Mulder said. "It is clear to me why they were selected out of 14 squadrons to be the wing's unit of the year for 2020. These Airmen provided two CYBERCOM joint task forces with 3,100 days of additional manpower, analyzed two terabytes of data, drove the development of a new cyber tool, to name a few of their accomplishments, all while working through the challenges and limitations of a global pandemic. Chappy, you are being charged with leading an amazing team."

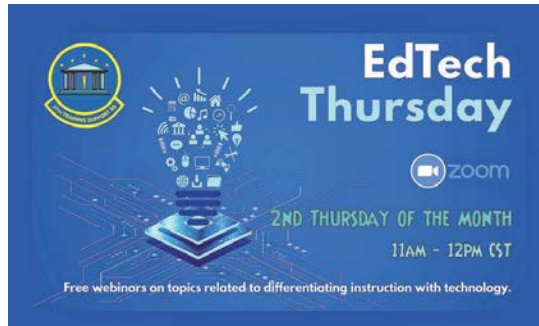
37th TRSS Faculty Development Flight offers EdTech webinar

By Dr. Lisa Rich

37TH TRSS FACULTY DEVELOPMENT
FLIGHT

The 37th Training Support Squadron Faculty Development flight launched EdTech recently, a monthly webinar series covering topics that focus on helping learning professionals gain insights and practical strategies for teaching with educational technology.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Air Force technical training. Instructors relied heavily on education technology, or edtech, to develop the Airmen we need," said Marcus Peters, 37th TRSS FAcD Instructor Supervisor. "Now that we are returning to in-residence



COURTESY GRAPHIC

training, learning professionals are looking for ways to continue using educational technology in tandem with traditional in-residence delivery.

"Our goal is to provide

professional learning opportunities to support learning professionals' use of educational technology to differentiate their approach to developing Airmen, today, and into the future," Peters added.

The first two webinars titled "EdTech Applications that work on the AFNET" and "Using the SAMR Model for Tech Integration" were well-attended and requests for future sessions are increasing.

The first webinar highlighted AFNET accessible EdTech applications learning professionals can use to effectively develop rich learning experiences and deepen student understanding and the second webinar covered how to use the SAMR model of technology integration as a guide for planning and implementing classroom learning experiences that enhance and transform student learning.

The free monthly webinar series is held on the second

Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom and is open to Department of the Air Force learning professionals. Upcoming webinars include:

► **July 8:** Kahoot in Detail - Highlights how you can use Kahoot features to enhance and transform learning.

► **Aug. 12:** Innovative Course Design with OER - Covers the basics of Open Educational Resources (OER) and provides practical guidance in locating and applying openly available resources.

Anyone interested in registering to attend a session, being a presenter, or receiving notifications for future EdTech Thursday events can reach out to the 37th TRSS Faculty Development team at 37TRSS.FAD@us.af.mil.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ecuadorian armed forces students build a bridge during a team-building exercise during a professional development seminar April 30 in Ecuador.

IAAFA leads professional development seminar in Ecuador

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the first time in more than a decade, members of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy recently collaborated with Ecuadorian armed forces for a professional military exchange in Ecuador.

Members of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and the 12th Air Force collaborated with IAAFA for the engagement to assess the professional development programs for officer and enlisted ranks across the Ecuadorian military. It was IAAFA's first visit to a partner nation since the Coronavirus outbreak more than one year ago.

"It was a great experience to be able to share knowledge and our development models for both officers and NCOs," said Master Sgt. Diego Ladino Restrepo, Professional Military Education Flight chief. "The Ecuadorian armed forces were very transparent with us, and they opened their doors to us completely."

Approximately 30 military members from the Ecuadorian army and air force participated in the engagement from April 26-30. Each military organization discussed its officer and enlisted structure, including discussions on developing its forces.

Chief Master Sgt. Emilio Avila, IAAFA superintendent, led a presentation about NCO empowerment with officers and enlisted members. The exchange —

originally set for less than an hour — engaged members in a two-hour discussion.

Avila said the Ecuadorian military proved itself a strong and disciplined force with the right educational structure for the careers of their service members.

"We went to learn what they have to offer and how we could complement what they already have," Avila said.

The collaboration helped IAAFA leaders understand how the Ecuadorian armed forces generate future officer and enlisted leaders, including within its female ranks. Similarly, the forum provided Ecuadorian forces an opportunity to learn how the U.S. develops its military members to become future leaders.

"The purpose was to show how we're bringing them together," said Capt. Yaira Saroli, 837th Training Squadron International Professional Military Education Flight commander. "They're all about developing the officer, but we have an initiative of developing the NCO because it's lacking in Latin America. And they were open to it, which tells us they're willing to learn."

IAAFA members led team-building exercises, bringing the ranks together, to help strengthen the relationship between officers and enlisted members.

The engagement culminated with two days of visits to Ecuadorian army and air force schoolhouses to learn more about their curriculum and professional development.

RANDOLPH

PCS moves made easier during peak shipping season

By Phyllis Billingsley

PERSONAL PROPERTY PROCESSING OFFICE
LEAD TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT

When permanent change of station, or PCS, orders are received, being proactive and prepared helps maximize the potential to receive your requested move dates.

When planning your move, prepare early and be flexible. Never schedule a pick-up or delivery on the same day you vacate or gain access to your new residence. To prevent incurring an excess cost for attempted pick-up or delivery, make sure you are available during scheduled timeframes.

The Defense Personal Property System, or DPS, at www.move.mil is the online website required to request shipment dates. You must register to get a new account if you do not have one.

Otherwise, call the Help Desk to reactivate your current account. If you have difficulties with the DPS system, contact their help desk anytime at 800-462-2176 or 618-589-9445.

After registration, you will receive an email providing you with your User ID. Upon receipt of your User ID, login into DPS (www.move.mil) to input your request.

New shipments require information from current orders. Select "Enter Order Information" from the upper left menu. Read the information carefully as you review the self-counseling process.

Upon completion of entering data, DPS will generate the Application for Shipment (DD Form 1299) and Counselling Checklist (DD Form 1797). Then, upload the signed and dated forms into the system for the local PPPO to retrieve and forward the request for booking.

First-time movers and individuals retiring or separating must go to their local PPPO to manually complete shipment documents. A transportation counselor will provide information on entitlements and be available to answer questions. Navy members are required to input shipment requests in DPS, provide signed documents and complete set of orders to their local PPPO.

Once your shipment is booked, the



COURTESY PHOTO

When planning a move, prepare early and be flexible. Never schedule a pick-up or delivery of personal goods on the same day as vacating the old residence or gaining access to the new residence.

Transportation Service Provider, or TSP, will email you to confirm your information and move dates. The TSP's local agent will be making contact with you to conduct a pre-move survey. You can also obtain your TSP's contact information by logging into your account in DPS, and clicking on the "Shipment Management" section.

Member's responsibilities prior to moving dates:

- Military members must identify professional books, papers and equipment, or PBP&E. These items must be clearly identified on your itemized inventory as "Pro-Gear or M-PRO." If a military member declares PBP&E for a dependent spouse, PBP&E must also be distinctly separated and annotated on the inventory as "PBP&E for Spouse or S-PRO." All PBP&E items must be identified at the origin so that the weight will not count against the member's authorized weight allowance. If not clearly identified on itemized inventory, you will not get credit for PBP&E as free weight. In order for a civilian employee to declare PBP&E it must be identified in the orders.
- Residence and furniture must be clean and pest-free.

- Remove from residence or clearly separate out any items you do not want movers to pack and ship. (i.e. important documents, passports, luggage, keys, money, jewelry, valuables, etc.)
- Make sure your pets are secure in a kennel or placed outside while movers are in the residence.

COVID-19-related items:

- Per the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-South Central, or JPPSO-SC, some areas, including San Antonio, are having trouble locking in OCONUS personal property shipments and others are seeing turn-backs when selected carriers are not able to perform services under the requested timelines.
- COVID-19 related issues, such as manpower shortages or resource constraints (i.e., lumber shortage, fuel issues, etc.) are beyond the JPPSO's control, but the JPPSO team is doing everything within its power to lock in dates and get shipments serviced. Members are asked to contact the JPPSO-SC or their base-level Personal Property Processing Office, or PPPO, to address problems and difficulties related to personal property shipments. Further messages from USTRANSCOM and the JPPSO are expected in the near future.

► Transportation Service Providers will be pre-screening personnel in accordance with CDC guidelines, such as wearing face coverings, reducing crew sizes to enable social distancing, practicing good hand hygiene and being equipped to clean commonly touched surfaces.

► Customers also have a responsibility to promote a safe working environment for moving crews by wearing face coverings; reducing the number of family members in the home where possible, and re-scheduling moves if anyone in their home is ill (COVID-19 or otherwise) or has been directed to quarantine.

Things to be aware of after pick-up:

- If you would like a reweigh you can request it with your TSP prior to delivery.
- Claims for loss or damage of your personal property must be submitted into DPS (www.move.mil). Note: service members/civilian employees must submit a claim online within 180 days from the date of delivery. The settlement is directly with the TSP. If you are unable to reach a settlement with your TSP, contact the claims office at http://www.move.mil/dod/claims_css/dod_claims.cfm for assistance.

Member tasks:

- Receive orders.
- Self-counseling (www.move.mil).
- Place signed DD FM 1299, DD FM 1797, and complete set of orders with amendments in DPS.
- Follow Up with TSP to confirm dates are booked.
- Personally Procured Move, or PPM, after submitted in www.move.mil — Member gets approval from Local PPPO.

For additional guidance or assistance, contact your installation's Personal Property Processing Office by telephone or in-person. At JBSA-Randolph, call 210-652-1848/1849 AFB, or visit 550D Street East, building 399, room 105. At JBSA-Lackland, call 210-671-2823, or visit 1561 Stewart Street, building 5616, room 112. At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 210-221-1605 or visit 2400 Jessup Road, building 4023, room 207.

Shedding light on the invisible wounds of PTSD

By Daria Flowers

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

June is National PTSD Awareness Month, an opportunity to talk about the signs and symptoms of the disorder, with the goal of reducing stigma and encouraging help-seeking.

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, more than 7.7 million Americans over the age of 18 suffer from PTSD. As stated by the National Institute of Mental Health, PTSD is a mental health disorder that develops in individuals who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event like, combat, a natural disaster, an accident, abuse or assault.

Following a traumatic event, many individuals have a difficult time returning to their old self and will experience symptoms such as feeling on edge, nightmares and difficulty sleeping, anxiety, or experience



COURTESY GRAPHIC

flashbacks where they feel they are reliving the event.

However, because PTSD is a stratified condition, different individuals can display different symptoms and can show up in different time periods. These symptoms can make it difficult for an individual's day-to-day function.

"The more you understand the signs and symptoms of PTSD the more likely you are to provide a healthy and conducive environment for the

individual to work through the symptoms that they are having," said Armando Franco, AFW2 Wellness and Resiliency team lead.

PTSD affects up to 20% of veterans which is a reminder that invisible wounds are real and are as severe as visible wounds.

For many, the symptoms do not show up right away and may take months, or longer, to appear. Many may be hesitant to open up about their diagnosis as they worry that

others may not understand what they are experiencing.

However, there are several resources available for individuals who have PTSD, as well as, individuals who would like to educate themselves on the disorder. These include those who have a family member, friend, or colleague who has been diagnosed.

While mobile applications are not a replacement for in-person help, there are several that cover resources for managing PTSD, as well as educating. Some include T2MoodTracker, Lifearmor, Dream Ez, Mindfulness Coach, Concussion Coach, and PTSD Coach. These mobile apps can offer additional guidance in learning and practicing mindfulness, coping strategies, and other resources to manage the stresses of daily life with PTSD.

When living with PTSD, having a supportive community that is knowledgeable about the topic

can also be beneficial to the individual. If something feels off, or you witness unusual behavior, it is important to speak up or talk to someone. In addition, knowing one's triggers first-hand is equally important.

"A lot of people suffer from, or have been in traumatic situations, and they don't understand what's going on. Talking about it, attending workshops, and reading about it does help a lot because it is like a self-education portal," Armando said.

Throughout the month of June, AFW2 will host daily virtual socials on Facebook to bring awareness and reduce the stigma of PTSD. Visit the program's Facebook page to hear stories of resiliency and engage in wellness and activities hosted by Air Force Wounded Warriors.

For additional information, to refer an Airman, or learn more about the program, visit www.woundedwarrior.af.mil for additional information and resources.

Feds Feed Families campaign underway through end of August

By Mike Perron

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The USDA's Feds Feed Families campaign for 2021 began June 1 and continues through Aug. 31 for federal workers and commissary customers and employees who want to donate to food banks and pantries in their area.

For the second straight year, the Department of Defense has designated the Defense Commissary Agency, or DeCA, the leader of the campaign for the military, said Randy Eller, the agency's director of logistics.

"We're proud to be taking the lead for a campaign held across the Department of Defense, which allows us to showcase

how caring and giving our people and patrons are, and also demonstrates the Department's commitment to helping people in need," Eller said.

Last year DOD and DeCA together collected over 2.3 million pounds of donated goods. So far this calendar year, DeCA has already collected over 1.3 million pounds from commissaries according to Eller. Since DeCA's donation program operates year-round its total is eligible to be counted in the final number for the annual food drive, Eller explained.

Participating installations help collect items most needed by food pantries and then donate them to area food banks. Commissary customers

and employees have a couple of options to participate:

- ▶ By purchasing needed food and personal hygiene products for donation while shopping at stateside commissaries, or bringing items from home and dropping them off at donation bins at the store
- ▶ By purchasing prepackaged donation bags available in stateside commissaries for less than \$10. The bags include Freedom's Choice products such as canned meat, pasta meals, popcorn and water.

Once collected, installation officials work with the commissary to deliver donations to local food banks.

Some of the most-needed items include:

- ▶ Canned vegetables — low sodium, or no salt

- ▶ Canned fruits — in light syrup or their own juices
- ▶ Canned proteins — tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter and beans
- ▶ Soups — beef stew, chili, chicken, turkey or rice
- ▶ Condiments — tomato-based sauces, light soy sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing or oils
- ▶ Snacks — individually packed snacks, trail mix, dried fruit, granola and cereal bars
- ▶ Multigrain cereals
- ▶ 100 percent juice — all sizes, including juice boxes
- ▶ Grains — brown and white rice, oatmeal, bulgar, quinoa, couscous, pasta, and macaroni and cheese
- ▶ Paper products and household items — paper towels, napkins and cleaning supplies

- ▶ Hygiene items — diapers, deodorants, feminine products, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and shampoo

"The annual Feds Feed Families food drive is a great way for commissaries and military families to give back to the communities that host us around the nation," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to DeCA's director. "The summer months typically see a drop in food bank donations, so it's the perfect time to set aside a few items to donate. A little goes a long way."

For more information on this campaign, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website at www.usda.gov/our-agency/initiatives/feds-feed-families.