

# JBSA

# LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JULY 9, 2021

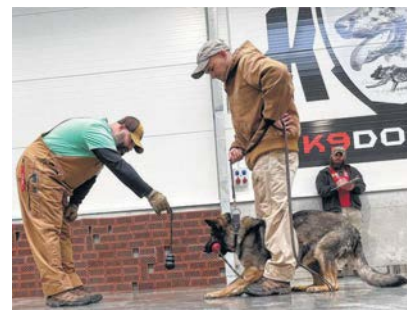


JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Sgt. 1st Class Elijah Williamson, U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity test officer, takes notes as a test player practices administering the Rapid Opioid Countermeasure System auto-injector on a simulated casualty June 23.

## Army tests ROCS at JBSA-Camp Bullis

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## MWD team travels overseas to acquire new trainees

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## Special Warfare reaches milestone

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# New COVID-19 Delta Variant: What you need to know to stay safe

By Janet A. Aker  
MHS COMMUNICATIONS

A new and increasingly dangerous variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is rapidly sweeping across the globe. This new variant appears to spread faster, cause more severe disease and is more likely to result in hospitalization.

Also, younger people appear to be more susceptible to the new strain, known as the Delta variant, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But the good news is that the existing vaccines now available to everyone over the age of 12 have proven to be highly effective in preventing the Delta variant as well as other versions of COVID-19.

"We know that vaccines work," said retired Navy Capt. (Dr.) Margaret Ryan, medical director of the Defense Health Agency's Immunization Healthcare Division, Pacific Region Vaccine safety in San Diego.

Currently, there are three vaccines authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration for COVID-19: the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines require two doses, and J&J/Janssen is a one-dose vaccine.

The Delta variant is spreading quickly and will likely soon become the dominant strain within the United States.

It's a wake-up call for those people who think that they don't need to get a vaccine because they've successfully avoided the COVID-19 disease so far. It may be very difficult to escape the new Delta variant in the coming months without getting the shot, doctors say.

The Delta variant currently accounts for 20.6 percent of sequenced cases in the U.S.,



STAFF SGT. CAMBRIN BASSETT

*U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Anabell Salcedo, assigned to the 628th Healthcare Operations Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a local community member at the Community Vaccination Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, June 7.*

and that number is expected to multiply, especially in regions and among populations with low COVID-19 vaccination rates.

The number of sequenced cases of the Delta variant has roughly doubled every two weeks, Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, told a June 22 White House media briefing. Fauci is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the National Institutes of Health.

The mRNA vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna have been described as having at least 88 percent efficacy against the Delta variant of

SARS-CoV-2, Ryan said. "But we should not focus too hard on efficacy numbers," she suggested. "All available COVID-19 vaccines have shown strong real-world effectiveness at preventing severe disease by all COVID-19 variants. The most important message is that vaccination saves lives."

Vaccination is also important to prevent new, possibly worse, variants of the virus from appearing, Ryan said. "Every person who gets infected with SARS-CoV-2 allows the virus to replicate, or copy itself, up to one billion times. Every time the virus copies itself, there is a chance

for a new variant to appear. We prevent variants from appearing by preventing human infections. We prevent human infections by vaccination," she said.

Because of the Delta variant, "Everyone in the U.S. who is at least 12 years old should be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible," Ryan said.

More than half of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 150.4 million, or 45.3 percent are fully vaccinated. For those over the age of 65, 87.3 percent have had at least one dose; 77.2 percent are fully vaccinated.

## 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](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q. As you know, the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center swimming pool hours at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston have been severely reduced to weekday mornings and holidays. I am sure this is a huge disappointment to the center's staff and its swimmers, especially in light of the fact that the pool was recently reopened after being closed for about five years.**

**The renovated pool is fantastic but, as just stated, the hours are truncated, due to a lack of lifeguards. I trust there is a plan in place to quickly rectify the need for more lifeguards.**

**If not, I hope you are open to suggestions, e.g., increasing**



**lifeguard pay or charging a user fee.**  
At Fort Riley, Kansas, in 2016, I paid \$2 each time I used the on-post indoor pool.

At Naval Air Station Corpus Christi many years ago, it cost \$2 a workout or \$10 a month to use the air-conditioned fitness center, as opposed to the installation center. Maybe hold a \$5 fun run to increase pay for guards? How

**about volunteer guards?**

Years ago, I was at an installation where there were active duty lifeguards at an outdoor recreation center. What about looking for guards among active duty holdovers, awaiting orders and medical hold folks? How about contacting some local high school swim coaches?

Maybe a little brainstorming can

**be done now and a plan established for later, so this does not become a recurring problem.**

You have my sympathies. There was a recent New York Times article bemoaning the need to close famous New York Atlantic Ocean beaches, due to lack of lifeguards which was attributed to the \$16 to \$20 an hour pay not being enough to live on in the area.

**Thank you very much for your consideration of this issue, among the plethora of issues you face daily.**

**A. Thank you for your question.**

Great news! The Jimmy Brought Pool has opened back to regular operating hours of 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday through Sunday and holidays.

The temporary reduction was not a funding issue but driven by the lack of lifeguards and applicants. We strive to offer the JBSA community the best aquatic options possible, and the summer swim season focuses on recreational swimming at the Aquatic Center in addition to the Jimmy Brought Pool.

Recruiting lifeguards is a year-round effort and we apologize for the temporary inconvenience. Thank you.

## Change to policy allows transgender Soldiers to serve openly

### Army Central Public Affairs

Transgender personnel and individuals with gender dysphoria who can meet the Army's standards for military service can now serve openly in their self-identified gender, according to a new policy approved this month by the Army secretary.

Army directive 2021-22 changes the service's retention, separation, in-service transition, and medical care standards for transgender personnel and refines entry criteria for individuals with gender dysphoria, following Department of Defense guidance, said Maj. Gen. Douglas F. Stitt, military personnel management director.

"People are the strength of our Army," Stitt said June 22. "Our ability to assess and retain qualified personnel provides a more diverse and stronger Army, enhancing readiness."

A Soldier's gender identity will no longer be a basis for involuntary separation or military discharge, denied reenlistment or continuation of service, or subjected to adverse action or mistreatment, the policy states.

The updated policy will apply to all active duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, U.S. Military Academy cadets, and contracted Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. Military medical providers will provide medically necessary care for transgender Soldiers

following guidelines by the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and the Army surgeon general, Stitt said.

"Every Soldier is different," Stitt said. "When a military medical provider gives a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, that Soldier will need to sit down with their chain of command and medical provider to determine what is medically necessary for an effective transition."

Commanders should approach a Soldier's gender transition in the same way they approach any Soldier receiving any other necessary medical treatment, the policy reads. Leaders must also do their part to minimize the impact on mission readiness, all while

balancing the Army's needs with the desires of the transitioning individual.

Once a Soldier is stable in their self-identified gender, they can then request to change their gender marker in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. Once the change is complete, all policies and standards for that given gender will then apply, the policy reads.

Individuals will then be expected to meet all uniform, grooming, body composition, physical readiness, and drug-testing standards. Similarly, a Soldier's identified gender in DEERS will permit them to access gender-specific facilities, such as bathrooms and showers.

# Electromagnetic defense, 5G partners share progress, explore AI

**Lori A. Bultman**

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Participants in the San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense collaborative met virtually June 24 to share progress being made across the group's four working groups toward building resilience, at Joint Base San Antonio and in surrounding communities, against an electromagnetic pulse.

The mission of SA-EMD is to ensure Joint Base San Antonio continues military operations in a post-electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, environment, said Michael Lovell, director of the JBSA-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative.

According to Lovell, SA-EMD is working to create resiliency and recovery plans for a catastrophic event, like a long-term regional power outage, where no one from outside the area would be available to assist.

"We have created an EMP resiliency model to replicate across the Department of Defense," Lovell said, noting that several sister cities are already utilizing the information.

During this quarter's meeting, the keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Rad, an associate professor in computer science with a joint appointment in the Information Systems and Cyber Security Department at the University of Texas-San Antonio, discussed how 5G enables augmented intelligence at the edge.

Rad specializes in cyber analytics and artificial intelligence, or AI, and he believes 5G and AI will drive the next wave of connectivity, and smart and application breakthroughs. He discussed AI's impressive growth in recent years, and the "Internet of Things at the Edge" - how mobile cloud computing has revolutionized smartphone



COURTESY IMAGE

*The mission of the San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense collaborative is to ensure Joint Base San Antonio continues military operations in a post-electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, environment.*

capabilities.

"Many of the large-scale AI models are so computationally intensive that they must be upgraded on the cloud," he said. "In parallel, the recent mobile cloud revolution was brought on by the combination of smartphones, high-quality mobile broadband, and mainly cloud computing - availability of on-demand ubiquitous platforms for delivering apps from the cloud."

Rad said the openness of the platform through applied programming interfaces, or APIs, allowed new applications to be hosted on smartphones, and to operate complete services back on the cloud through APIs.

He said this revolutionized every industry and everyone's daily activities, from how people connect through social networks, read news, order food, request a ride, and even

utilize map applications.

Commending local efforts, Rad said he is excited that San Antonio is recognized as the leading expert in 5G as a ubiquitous platform and that JBSA will investigate truly innovative breakthroughs and applications in the areas of 5G security, telemedicine, and medical training using immersive augmented reality/virtual reality, or AR/VR, technologies.

During the reporting portion of the meeting, Dr. Patricia Geppert, data analytics lead for the JBSA 5G Program Management Office, presented information on 5G core capabilities, security experiment goals and proposal submissions. She also explained the experimentation taking place with 5G cell-on-light trucks, or CoLTs, in collaboration with U.S. Army North.

A new phase beginning at the JBSA 5G Project Management Office is 5G as a platform for ubiquitous data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

"5G enables ubiquitous use of advanced decision-making tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning," Geppert said. "Think of 5G technology as untethered access to the internet. This has the potential to change the way the military, governments and industry use data for better informed real-time decision making."

Geppert said the 5G technology being developed at JBSA will put San Antonio at the forefront of this rapidly emerging capability.

"A newly restructured 5G Steering Committee is charged with shaping the vision, goals and strategy for the line of

effort two working group. The steering committee is comprised of 15 San Antonio community leaders that meet biweekly to fulfill their mission," she said. "The restructured working group is comprised of over 60 members representing the military, local government, academia, research and industry."

"I look forward to working with the Steering Committee and Working Group as we build this ecosystem in San Antonio," she said.

Domestic Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, or DEMSO, was another line of effort update presented during the meeting.

Dr. John Huggins, technology officer for the National Security Collaboration Center at UTSA, discussed the DEMSO guide, which is currently in draft form. The guide will include information on electromagnetic-related threats and a discussion on how communities can evaluate their resiliency maturity to those threats. The guide will be distributed to other cities for their use in planning for EMP defense.

In addition to discussions on JBSA's pilot programs, John Ostrich, program manager for risk and hazard analysis at the Department of Energy, discussed that agency's EMP and geomagnetic disturbance, or GMD, pilot programs, which involve the generation, transmission and distribution of power to JBSA and San Antonio.

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA, closed out the meeting by thanking the volunteers who are part of SA-EMD.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation again to all of our volunteers," she said. "You really are making a difference in building resiliency in San Antonio, Texas, and the nation."

# Tough Conversations: Dealing with the effects of PTSD

2 Lt. Robert H. Dabbs

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider hosted their “Tough Conversation” forum on the topic of PTSD June 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in recognition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

The 502d ABW Command Team took the time to discuss what it means to have or know people who deal with PTSD. Miller opened the conversation for anyone to share his or her experiences with PTSD.

“I came home from Afghanistan with PTSD and I didn’t realize what it was,” said an individual who retired from the Air Force. “My kids weren’t comfortable with me anymore; my baby was terrified of me. I didn’t know what was going on. I’m okay now, but it was years of hell.”

The conversation focused on reintegration. One Airman who deployed during his time in the Navy related to the difficulties of transitioning to life back home.

“We can’t continue to bring people home and leave them alone. I got home and I felt like I didn’t fit anymore,” he said.

“It’s like everywhere you go to get help, it’s a book. There’s nothing to help the individual,” said an Airman who felt as though reintegration services were too broad and impersonal.

While attendees discussed reintegration, some mentioned dismissing potentially having PTSD because of their job while on deployment.

“I didn’t get shot at or blown up, so I felt like I should have been fine,” said a retiree who didn’t seek help until several years after returning from her final deployment.

Miller responded by emphasizing

how important it is for leadership to be aware of their teammates.

“From a leadership perspective, you have to know your people. You have to be able to tell when they’re not being themselves,” she said. “How many times do we hear about a suicide and think, ‘I had no idea they were going through that?’”

Snider agreed and explained how leadership can sometimes lose focus on what’s important.

“The biggest threat to any leader is being too focused on work. You have to observe and watch what’s going on with your teammates,” the chief said.

“As leaders, we refine our skills but lose sight of emotional intelligence,” said one participant. “If we can’t sit back and understand our own emotions, we can’t be socially aware when our team comes to us with problems.”

Most of the attendees agreed that things have changed for the better, although the system still isn’t perfect.

“I think it is important to have the conversation,” said one Airman.

“We used to say, ‘work is work; you have to move on.’ Back then you couldn’t go to mental health, because of the stigma, but now we can do that.”

Miller closed up the conversation by mentioning “The Things We Carry,” a campaign that highlights the challenges of fellow service members in order to remind people that they are not alone in their struggles.

“We, as leadership, have to be okay with people taking a knee,” Miller said.

The “Tough Conversation” roundtable is a monthly series focused on important, challenging and impactful topics that affect the Air Force and Department of Defense. This series fosters an open and candid dialogue between 502d ABW senior leaders, service members and civilians of all ranks and backgrounds.



2ND LT. ROBERT H. DABBS

Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller (center), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, along with Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider (right), host their “Tough Conversation” series June 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity tests Rapid Opioid Countermeasure System at JBSA-Camp Bullis

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF  
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity, or USAMTEAC, conducted a customer test for the Rapid Opioid Countermeasure System, or ROCS, auto-injector at the Deployable Medical System Equipment for Training site at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis June 23.

USAMTEAC, formally called the Army Medical Department Board, is part of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence and provides independent operational testing and evaluation of medical and medical-related materiel and information technology products in support of the Army's Department of Defense acquisition processes.

The ROCS test was requested by the product manager at the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical Biological Defense, Medical Countermeasures Systems to assess the functionality and usability of the ROCS auto-injector within the operational environment.

Soldiers who are the typical users of the ROCS served as test players for the event. The ROCS auto-injector report is relevant and provides JPEO—CBD MCS a report and data for their evaluation and possible future fielding throughout the Army.

Army test players participated in self-aid and buddy-aid scenarios using the ROCS, a single-use auto-injector pre-filled with 10 milligrams of Naloxone.

The ROCS auto-injector provides the capability to deliver an intramuscular injection with a 22-gauge needle and be used in a suspected opioid environment



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

*Sgt. 1st Class  
Elijah  
Williamson,  
U.S. Army  
Medical Test  
and Evaluation  
Activity test  
officer, takes  
notes as a test  
player practices  
administering  
the Rapid  
Opioid Counter-  
measure System  
auto-injector on  
a simulated  
casualty  
June 23 at Joint  
Base San  
Antonio-Camp  
Bullis.*

with Soldiers wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or MOPP, Level 4 protective gear. During the test at JBSA-Camp Bullis, test players also donned MOPP Level 4 gear in a simulated field environment.

"With the humanitarian missions we're supporting our Soldiers may walk into a hot spot and unknowingly get exposed. The ROCS auto-injector will help if they are experiencing symptoms of opioid exposure with better medical care for the front line troops," said Charles Lohsant, one of the USAMTEAC test officers. "It's a very small single-use cartridge that can

easily fit in a gas mask carrier or inside one of the protective suit pockets, for example."

Col. Mark Plooster, USAMTEAC executive director, discussed the collaboration with other organizations in conducting this test.

"What we do is bring in a capability developer from CDID (Army Futures Command Capability Development Integration Directorate), people from the FFID (Field Force Integration Directorate), the MRDC (U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command), and Weapons of Mass Destruction — Civil Support Teams to bring in the

whole team to make sure that everybody who has a piece of the pie is involved," Plooster said. "At the end of the day, the real customer is the Soldier on the battlefield. We try to make this test as realistic as we can using Soldiers in the actual unit that will be using the equipment."

"The test players are the most important and valuable part of the test," said Col. Roberto Marin, USAMTEAC Materiel Test and Evaluation Branch chief. "Although we have the capability developers, the material developers, and us, the USAMTEAC test team, as the lead test agency, test players,

also known as the end-users, they provide us with honest feedback that is required to provide better medical care for the warfighter, the ultimate customer.

"Test player data feedback includes an after-action review detailing the ROCS auto-injector strengths and weaknesses, a survey, and recommendations," Marin added. "We analyze all the data points and send a report to the material developer for higher-level decision authority."

To learn more about the USAMTEAC mission, visit <https://medcoe.army.mil/usamteac>.

# Three IMCOM Soldiers named Team USA coaches for Summer Olympics

By Brittany Nelson

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Staff Sgt. Spencer Mango, Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Bowsher, and Sgt. Terrence Jennings, all Soldier-coaches with the World Class Athlete Program, have been named as Team USA coaches for the Summer Olympic Games.

Mango, Bowsher, and Jennings will be coaching wrestling, modern pentathlon, and taekwondo, respectively, at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, July 23-Aug. 8.

"This is a tremendous honor; it could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Mango, who will coach on the Team USA wrestling delegation.

Mango, a two-time Olympian, will be coaching WCAP wrestlers who qualified for the games, Sgt. Ildar Hafizov and Spc. Alejandro Sancho.

"It is an awesome opportunity to help them on their journey to becoming Olympic medalists," Mango said.

Bowsher, the 2016 assistant Olympic coach for modern pentathlon, will be the head coach for the sport this year.

"It is a big honor to be a part of this, especially with our team being all Soldier-athletes," said Bowsher, an 11-time World Team member. "It is great to represent Team USA and the U.S. Army at this stage."

Bowsher will be coaching both Team USA pentathlon athletes, who are also WCAP Soldiers, Sgt. Samantha Schultz and Sgt. Amro Elgeziry.

Jennings, a two-time Olympic medalist, is one of two coaches for taekwondo. Jennings will be coaching Paige McPherson, an athlete he has competed and trained with since 2012.

"I have seen her at every level of the game, and I am very fortunate it all worked out and I am in a position where I can help Paige win," Jennings said.

Jennings joined WCAP as Soldier-athlete in 2016 and became a coach in 2018.

"It will be great to be there, show the world the Army from the inside and that we have programs like WCAP," said Jennings. "We work with Soldiers who chase their dreams. We want to win for our team and the U.S. Army."

WCAP currently has 11 Soldier-athletes qualified for the games: Staff Sgt. Naomi Graham, boxing; Staff Sgt. Sandra Uptagrafft, 1st Lt. Amber English and Staff Sgt. Nickolaus Mowrer, shooting; Sgt. John Wayne Joss and Staff Sgt. Kevin Nguyen, para shooting; Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Marks, para-swimming; Sgt. Ildar Hafizov and Spc. Alejandro Sancho, wrestling, and Sgt. Amro Elgeziry and Sgt. Samantha Schultz, modern pentathlon.



BRITTANY NELSON

Sgt. Terrence Jennings coaches Sgt. Charles Buset at the 2019 Taekwondo Open in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jennings was named one of two taekwondo coaches for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.



MAJ. NATHANIEL GARCIA

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Bowsher, a coach with the World Class Athlete program, was named Team USA head coach for modern pentathlon at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Bowsher will be coaching Soldier-athletes Sgt. Samantha Schultz and Sgt. Amro Elgeziry.



BRITTANY NELSON

Staff Sgt. Spencer Mango (center) coaches a World Class Athlete Program Soldier-athlete at the 2019 Las Vegas Marine Corps Open. Mango was named as a coach on the Team USA wrestling delegation for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.



# Two NAMRU-SA members recognized by American Society of Military Comptrollers

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, or ASMC, has selected two Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio members for awards recognizing their work within the command.

Tonja Campbell, NAMRU-SA resource management and acquisitions director, and Amanda Haas, NAMRU-SA budget analyst, received awards from the Alamo City Chapter of the ASMC for distinguished achievement in 2019.

COVID-19 had delayed the presentation of the awards.

Campbell won the award in the comptroller/deputy comptroller category, while Haas won for contractor support. The awards are based on three criteria: impact, complexity, leadership, and resource savings demonstrated by the award recipients.

In nominating Campbell for the ASMC award, NAMRU-SA leadership cited her as an exceptional leader who has fostered a team-oriented environment amongst her staff, making them highly productive members of the command.

Campbell said she wouldn't have received the award without the efforts of her hard-working staff.

"It validates what I am doing is right, the way I have chosen to work with my staff and my team is working," Campbell said.

In her role at NAMRU-SA, Campbell oversees a staff of 20 employees, from financial managers to biomedical repair technicians, including military, Department of Defense civilians and contractors. She is



RANDY MARTIN

*Amanda Haas (left), Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio budget analyst, and Tonja Campbell (right), NAMRU-SA resource management and acquisitions director, display the award plaques they received from the Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers May 27. They earned the awards for distinguished achievement for their work at the command in 2019.*

responsible for making sure the command's expenditures are spent legally and properly, as appropriated.

According to the award nomination form, Campbell and her staff executed 99 percent of NAMRU-SA's expenditures in fiscal year 2019, above the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, or BUMED, a benchmark of 98 percent. BUMED manages NAMRU-SA.

As a team leader, Campbell said she encourages her employees to come up with their own ideas on how to get things done.

"You are forever looking for innovations, any way to do something more efficient with fewer people, with less money, and you have to be willing to be creative and

innovative," she said. "Also, accept that in your team; allow them to be creative with it as well."

Campbell, a Navy veteran who served for four years, has 20 years of experience in military finance. She started her DOD civilian career working in the military administrative field before becoming a financial analyst and then a financial manager.

Campbell said during her career several of her supervisors were mentors to her, as they encouraged her to get more training and professional development, which led to her becoming a financial manager. She said the leadership at NAMRU-SA has supported her since the first day she started at the command.

Haas has worked at NAMRU-SA for five years. She is a contractor for Leidos, a company specializing in research and development which places specialists and physicians with doctorates within BUMED facilities.

As a budget analyst, Haas works on establishing and executing the command's budget, tracking spending, establishing new projects when funding is appropriated and is the command's auditor, keeping NAMRU-SA in compliance with its financial appropriations.

Haas said she feels honored to be recognized for her work by the ASMC, and she hopes the award will inspire other military

contractors within NAMRU-SA to strive to excel in what they do.

"It's wonderful to be recognized and I hope this motivates others to continue to strive to be the best they can be," Haas said. "In finance, you're kind of in the background, the research tends to be at the forefront. What we do makes a difference, and what we do supports the mission."

Campbell, who nominated Haas for the award, said Haas is like a right-hand man to her within the command.

"She does absolutely anything and everything she can do as a contractor," Campbell said. "She has the most knowledge base of my team; she's been there the longest. She's very good at what she does."

In turn, Haas said Campbell has been supportive of her in her career development.

"Tonja (Campbell) as a director is absolutely amazing," Haas said. "She absolutely ensures that her team has anything and everything they need, whether it would be resources, supplies, training. She truly encourages her staff to build up their portfolio."

Campbell said being selected for the ASMC awards, she and Haas are getting recognition for NAMRU-SA, a small command that is sometimes overlooked in a city with a larger Army and Air Force presence.

"I like to see the Navy get recognized here just because our footprint is so small," Campbell said. "For me, it speaks out that the Navy is here, and we have a presence; even a small command can win an award like this."



# Preventing suicide includes support from families, JBSA agencies

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Whether it's going through basic training, processing or deploying, service members, military spouses and family members are constantly having to adapt to change.

Sometimes the stressors of military life, or other life-changing events, can cause loneliness, isolation or depression and lead to thoughts of suicide.

For those military members who are considering suicide as an option, or know of someone who is, there are several programs and agencies at Joint Base San Antonio that provide the support needed to enable members to be resilient and cope with problematic areas that cause distress, said Marlo Bearden, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Violence Prevention Integrator/Suicide Prevention Program Manager.

Bearden indicated that these helping agencies include the Mental Health Clinic, Chaplain services, Military & Family Readiness Centers, Military and Family Life Counselors, the Employee Assistance Program, the Family Advocacy Office, and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office. Information on these programs and services can be found at [www.jbsa.mil/resources/resiliency](http://www.jbsa.mil/resources/resiliency), or on the Air Force Connect app.

The important thing for military members experiencing personal difficulties or problems is to reach out and talk to someone, said Bearden.

"One of our primary training components this year is seeking to 'normalize' help-seeking," she said.

"Members can reach out to any of the helping agencies that are listed, they can reach out to family members or co-workers," Bearden said. "We encourage JBSA personnel to connect with their Wingmen before issues or problems reach a state of distress so they can assist them in receiving help with any detrimental issues.

JBSA members can arrange to talk to a chaplain and/or a Military Family Life Counselor in person. Additional assistance is available with the Employee Assistance Program, 1-800-222-0364, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, or Military OneSource, 1-800-342-9647.

Some of the more prevalent suicide risk factors include relationship problems, financial problems, legal issues, significant life-altering events, such as processing, demotion and job loss, and/or the death of a loved one or friend.

There are several warning signs people should look out for as well, Bearden said. These include alcohol and substance abuse, withdrawing from family and friends and activities they enjoy, showing extreme mood swings, extreme behaviors outside of the person's normal personality, and talking about dying or suicidal ideations, whether it be in person, on the phone or on social media.



SABRINA FINE

502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio Command Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Snider holds a sign in support of the We Care Day event April 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

Bearden emphasized that it is important for family, friends and co-workers of persons in distress who are having a hard time coping with their life circumstances and may be considering suicide, to listen carefully to learn what the person is thinking and feeling.

She said people and military members need to feel they are connected and have a sense of belonging in their communities. If they do, they are more likely to reach out for help.

There are three things JBSA members can do to maintain their mental health and help reduce the potential of having suicidal ideations: self-care, activate resilience techniques and investing in themselves, Bearden said.

Self-care involves doing something for one's own mental and physical health. It can include activities such as yoga, reading a book, exercise, getting a massage, being with friends or pets, or any other activity that helps a person relax and relieve stress.

Resilience techniques include exercise and having good eating and sleeping habits. This includes social resilience where persons have a social support network of family, friends and co-workers who can help when a person is going through difficult times.

**"Help-seeking is not an indicator of weakness. Help-seeking is actually a strength. It takes a lot more strength for someone to be vulnerable and say, 'Hey, this is an area I am not doing so well in and want to improve.'"**

**Marlo Bearden, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
Violence Prevention Integrator/Suicide Prevention  
Program Manager**

These are people they can trust and talk to.

Then there is investing, which Bearden said is identifying personal health, relationship, financial and professional goals, which can have immediate or long-term benefits for a person.

And, as said above, never feel embarrassed or ashamed to reach out for help if you are feeling alone, depressed or having suicidal ideations, Bearden said.

"Help-seeking is not an indicator of weakness," Bearden said. "Help-seeking is actually a strength. It takes a lot more strength for someone to be vulnerable and say, 'Hey, this is an area I am not doing so well in and want to improve.' It actually takes uncommon strength for someone to step out on a limb and shine a light on themselves to get the help they need and deserve."

*Editor's note: This article is a first in a series of articles being published to mark Social Wellness Month in July.*

# ARNORTH deputy commanding general retires after 36 years of service

*Retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David E. Quantock (left) presents U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David P. Glaser (right) his certificate of retirement at a ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle June 11, 2021. Glaser, the ARNORTH deputy commanding general for operations, concluded his career after 36 years of service overseeing Army operations throughout the United States and overseas.*



SPC. ASHLIND HOUSE

**By Spc. Ashlind House**  
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David P. Glaser, the ARNORTH deputy commanding general for operations, concluded his career during a retirement ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle June 11, 2021.

In 36 years of service overseeing Army operations throughout the United States and overseas, the general has served as staff lead in positions overseeing personnel, logistics and financial management and has been appointed to duties based on his reputation for innovation, problem-solving and team-building.

He has also served as the Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army as well as the Executive Lead for Defense Forensic and Biometric activities (Databasing, Labs, Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation). While serving as the Provost Marshal General, he concurrently served as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

## 'Fort Sam's Own' 323rd Army Band performs concert at the Alamo

**By Charlotte Reavis**  
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The "Fort Sam's Own" 323rd Army Band, alongside the 313th Army Band, performed in concert at the Alamo July 2.

The patriotic performance featured songs and medleys such as: "God Bless America," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "Variations of a Shaker Melody."

Led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared DeLaney, the concert band featured 41 Active-Duty U.S. Army musicians, is headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and assigned to U.S. Army North.

The 313th Army Band, an Army Reserve band stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, joined 'Fort Sam's Own' for this special combined performance.

The Independence Day weekend concert was held in conjunction with other activities and demonstrations at the Alamo from Friday, July 2 through Sunday, July 4.

For additional information on the 323rd Army Band, visit <https://www.arnorth.army.mil/Outreach/The-323rd-Army-Band/>.



BETHANY HUFF

Staff Sgt. Randy Holmes, assigned to "Fort Sam's Own" 323d Army Band, sings "God Bless the U.S.A.," during an Independence Day concert held at the Alamo July 2.



# LACKLAND

## Air Force, Army build on joint contracting operations

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND  
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army and Air Force contracting experts are strengthening joint operations by reviving joint exercises, beginning with the Joint Force Contracting Exercise 2021 that was held June 21-25 at numerous locations.

The JFCE, the first Air Force/Army training exercise since 2017, gave contracting teams the chance to practice unity of effort, build relationships and better understand each other's organizational structure and methodologies.

Working in contracting detachments, Soldiers and Airmen tackled various exercise scenarios pertaining to contingency contracting in support of large-scale combat operations in a multi-domain environment. Exercise locations included Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, and more than 15 installations in between.

"In today's dynamic environment, we must understand the importance of our National Defense Strategy, who our adversaries are, what challenges and threats we face, and the urgency to 'Accelerate Change or Lose,' just as the Chief of Staff of the Air Force encourages," said Brig. Gen. Alice Trevino, Air Force Installation Contracting Center commander.

"Airmen and Soldiers were exposed to scenarios that demanded them to think differently — unlike what they experience in 'normal' day-to-day home station or in-garrison situations," she said.

"Meeting the challenges we'll face in the next conflict requires an understanding of how other services incorporate contracting into operational planning and execution," said Lt. Col. Peter O'Neill, deputy JFCE-21 director and AFICC's director for Operating Location-Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. "The more we train together, the better we'll be prepared as we integrate in the joint environment."

In today's environment, interoperability among services is critical, he added.

Since many exercise participants had little experience dealing with other services, exercise scenarios had Airmen and Soldiers working side by side to expand their horizons with new material, improve their skills and better understand each other's terminology and structure, O'Neill added.

For JFCE-21, Senior Airman David Akins traveled from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, to nearby Fort Bragg for the exercise. In addition to serving as contract administrator, he was responsible for the Government Purchase Card program for the exercise, buying goods and services in a simulated contingency environment.

"I know fairly well how the Air Force runs contracting when they are the head agency," he said, "however, with the Army starting to have a larger role in contingency environments, it becomes increasingly more likely that future deployments operate in a joint environment, as opposed to just one agency at a given location.

"The experiences we are getting with the Army, in in-garrison and exercise



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DAVID LYNN

(From right) U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Antonio Cusic, 419th Contracting Support Brigade contracting specialist, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Lewis, 4th Contracting Squadron contracting specialist, and U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Ian Woods, 4th CONS infrastructure flight team lead, talk through a training scenario at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, June 24.

environments, can prove beneficial, especially if a natural disaster occurs — namely hurricanes in North Carolina," Akins said.

"Joint exercises like this one are a great way to not only build upon the knowledge of peers but also a great way to network with people and learn of experiences that we can later apply to our own contracts to procure things cheaper, faster and better than we used to," he added.

U.S. Army Maj. Keia Hurt is the 901st Contracting Battalion support officer at Fort Hood, Texas, and was the Contracting Detachment 1 commander and contracting officer during the exercise.

"I think it's important for the Army to seamlessly integrate with the Air Force and our sister services to be a force multiplier using contracting in a contingency environment," Hurt said, "This exercise allows us to train with our sister services; something

we don't get to do all the time."

"And, exercise participants will certainly cross paths in the future," O'Neill added.

For example, he and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Marlon Elbelau, the 418th Contracting Support Brigade officer in charge of future operations and lead planner for JFCE-21, were deployed together in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2007.

"We were familiar with each other's strengths and weakness so that enabled us to work well to plan this exercise ... the relationships you foster now will pay dividends in future operations," Elbelau added.

Despite the lack of formal training exercises in recent years, real-world opportunities for joint operations have provided collaboration opportunities between the Army and Air Force.

For example, during the 2018 and 2019 hurricane seasons, AFICC partnered with U.S. Army Mission and Installation

Contracting Command, U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command on operational contracting support initiatives to include a recurring Joint Operational Contracting synchronization forum to discuss operational contracting support doctrine and command and control opportunities.

Relationships built during those events proved valuable when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"These relationships and touchpoints were vital as we went into the pandemic, sharing information, de-conflicting requirements and analyzing the operating environment," said Trevino.

With these past joint communication efforts, the goal of the JFCE was to solidify "connective tissue" gained and leverage OCS lessons learned from the enterprise at locations where Army/Air Force partnerships are currently making us stronger, Trevino added.

"In AFICC, we see ourselves as mission-focused business leaders who understand alignment, nested under the National Defense Strategy, and encourage everyone on our team to be Change Agents who practice the art of 'thinking outside of the box,' cultivate curiosity, build relationships, have the courage to ask questions and try new things, as well as know how to prioritize ruthlessly when time is of the essence for the Joint Warfighter," Trevino said.

"Partnering and collaboration with our sister services, during exercises and real-world operations, promote unity of effort, improves synergy and empowers our change agents to make it better tomorrow for the next generation of Warfighters."

# Special Warfare Human Performance Squadron reaches milestone

By Andrew C. Patterson

SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Special Warfare Human Performance Squadron, or SWHPS, recently marked its second anniversary. It is the first squadron of its kind in the Department of Defense, and its sole purpose is to provide Special Warfare Airmen and cadre embedded/holistic human performance support.

"We reached our two-year milestone as a squadron and I cannot tell you how immensely proud I am of the team," said Lt. Col. Shawnee A. Williams, SWHPS commander. "With all of the hard work done to stand up the SWHPS, I am excited to see this capability propel forward every day!"

The SWHPS mission statement is to optimize the performance, durability and sustainability of the Special Warfare human weapon system by taking an interdisciplinary

approach toward the advancement of science and technology throughout the special warfare operator's lifespan.

The organizational structure is made up of five geographically separated units, GSU, across the United States coast-to-coast. Within this construct are nine human performance flights supporting 80 Special Warfare cadre, 500 support staff, and 1,100 Special Warfare students annually.

"Our team sets the foundation for building physically superior, mentally sharper, and spiritually stronger warriors who will go into harm's way to tackle our nation's most dangerous and difficult tasks," said Col. George Buse, Special Warfare Human Performance Support Group commander. "To this end, SWHPS focuses on being brilliant at instilling HP principles in SW Airmen. We also leverage technological

advances, research capabilities, and a holistic approach for the sake of further integrating and professionalizing the SW training enterprise."

Some key accomplishments of the SWHPS include standing up the first SW Human Performance purpose-built facility and hence named the Airman 1st Class Baker Combat Conditioning Center at the Panama City Dive School, Panama City, Florida. This facility occupies 13,000 square feet, \$1.3 million in performance equipment, and serves a joint population of cadre and students with more than 700,000 annual course hours.

At GSU location Yuma, Arizona, the first-ever embedded physical therapist for Army and Air Force personnel position has been established to increase access to care for evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and injury prevention services for trainees and support staff members at



ANDREW C. PATTERSON /

*Special Warfare Airmen receive holistic Human Performance support during the SW Preparatory course May 15 at JBSA-Lackland.*

Military Free Fall Courses.

Educationally, SWHPS has established a location at the U.S. Air Force Academy and took on

their USAF Physical Therapy Fellowship Program for the Air Force Medical Service, and

**SWHPS continues on 16**



# Working dog team travels overseas to acquire four-legged trainees

By Agnes Koterba

37TH TRAINING WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Travel is a regularity for the 341st Training Squadron and Department of Defense Veterinary Service working dog procurement team. These trips are vital to procure working dogs for the DOD and Transportation Security Administration.

“Governments and private sector businesses alike utilize working dogs for the deterrent and detection of illegal substances, explosive devices, and protection of assets,” said Bernadine Green, 341st TRS chief of logistics and the resources flight.

During a trip to Nowy Bugaj, Poland in May, the team visited a Polish vendor that specializes in military and police canines. Due to the worldwide demand for exceptional canine candidates, the training squadron incorporates a three-prong approach in the procurement process — evaluating dogs at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and U.S. and overseas vendor sites, according to Rolland Edgell, 341st TRS consignment evaluator.

“This approach permits evaluation of large numbers and types of dog maximizing the potential for purchasing high-quality working dog candidates,” Edgell added.

While in Poland, team members prepared for physically and mentally demanding assessments.

All-weather gear was a necessity with austere climate conditions, as the team worked weekdays and weekends to examine more than 100 canine candidates.

“When your job is your hobby, you will not work one



AGNES KOTERBA

*The 341st Training Squadron working dog procurement team tests a canine candidate in Nowy Bugaj, Poland, May 5.*

day your whole life,’ and for me working with dogs is a hobby, a passion, it is an important part of life,” said Jacek Zydzia, business owner and dog trainer in Poland. Attempting to understand animals, their needs, and the proper approach is nothing short of amazing and fulfilling, he said.

Each morning, members of the team worked a relentless pace testing the resiliency and behavioral intelligence of four-legged candidates, both German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois breeds, over a five-day period.

Testing took about 30

minutes per candidate and included explosive/narcotic detection and patrol tasks.

In the initial stages of testing, the DOD Veterinary Service team reviewed radiographs for any health issues.

“Dogs must meet stringent medical requirements to ensure they are physically fit to perform the tasks required of a military working dog and to ensure the longevity of career,” Green said.

Canines had to demonstrate self-confidence, resourcefulness, and the ability to detect odors. Dogs were required to pass tests that took into consideration

physical, mental, and health status.

Once the dogs passed the initial round, military working dog trainers and team members began the next round of testing. This was comprised of search and detection, bite work, and reactionary behaviors. If working dogs passed, the DOD Veterinary Service team then proceeded to physically examine and vaccinate canines for travel abroad.

An intensive vetting process demonstrated the strengths of the procurement team including their “ability to select the absolute best possible working dogs

candidates,” Green said.

During the trip to Poland, the team purchased 45 working dogs who will train alongside their two-legged counterparts in support of nationwide missions. As with every trip, the team brought home key takeaways.

“I am continuously learning and evolving, whether it be a slight adjustment in my technique in a particular area, a subtle adjustment, or a clearer understanding of a behavior I see,” said Joshua Delancey, 341st TRS consignment evaluator.

Fostering good and lasting partnerships are also integral to the continued success of the working dog mission.

“I am happy to bring a new vendor into the 341st TRS family. It is difficult to find dogs of the quality and quantity we need to fulfill our critical mission to the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Kowalski, 341st TRS commander. “We look forward to working with our new Polish colleagues as we recruit new dogs in the service of our nation.”

The diligence and work ethic to achieve the mission were evident.

“Searching for the right canine warfighters in support of the working dog program is a heavy and work-intensive mission requiring long work hours and meticulous assessments,” said Col. Joyce Storm, 37th TRG commander, said. “Our team exemplified dedication to the mission that surpassed expectations. We’re excited to work with our vendors locally and internationally in procuring some of the best four-legged trainees.”

# 59th MDW treats transgender service members

By **Airman 1st Class  
Melody Bordeaux**

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Earlier this year, President Joe Biden signed an executive order making it possible for transgender service members to openly serve in the military, which further strengthened the Transgender Health Medical Evaluation Unit at the 59th Medical Wing.

“What I’m doing is enabling all qualified Americans to be able to serve their country in uniform,” Biden said during a press conference in January. “Essentially restoring the situation where transgender personnel who have qualified in every other way can serve their government in the United States military.”

For service members to receive transitional medical

care, they first undergo a mental health evaluation.

“In order to have medical interventions you have to have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria,” said Chari’ McMahon, 59th Medical Specialty Squadron THMEU licensed clinical social worker. “Gender dysphoria is a marked incongruence between the gender assigned at birth and the gender that you most closely align with causing clinically significant distress.”

Once the diagnosis has been made, treatment at the THMEU begins.

“Once the provider sends the referral to our case managers, then our nursing staff reaches out to the member directly to arrange time for them to come out for the medical temporary duty assignment,” McMahon said.

During the TDY, THMEU creates an individual medical

treatment plan which patients follow at their home-stations medical treatment facility.

“One of the benefits of having a centralized case management for all of the Air Force is that everything comes through us, but patients’ individual treatment facilities provide the continuing care,” McMahon said.

Not all medical treatment plans include surgery or hormones and may cover anywhere from a few months to multiple years of care.

“Each plan has a timeline in it and it’s a projection of the different interventions that the patients may need,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joshua Smalley, 59th Medical Specialty Squadron THMEU flight commander.

In order to build an encompassing plan, providers in the THMEU review the patient’s medical records and

schedule appropriate appointments such as nutrition, mental health, endocrinology, dermatology, legal, TRICARE, and speech therapy should they want to seek voice training during their transition. Patients also attend a gender expressions group.

“This is an opportunity for transgender service members to really develop a peer group of other transgender service members and provide support along the way,” McMahon said. “We want them to be able to build that connection and walk with each other through the process.”

If services aren’t available locally, the THMEU’s providers are available near or far through virtual health providing hormone therapy and mental health appointments.

“We are working to assist our

service members to move forward in a way that affirms who they are and allows them to be the absolute best service members they can be,” McMahon said.

As a result, the Air Force is dedicated to ensuring equality and supporting all service members.

“I love seeing patients come back because so often I see them when they’re starting out,” McMahon said. “They’re uncertain about what the next steps are, what the military can do for them, how they can really be who they are. Being able to see them when they come back and they’re able to live fully in their affirmed gender. They’re just happier. They’re healthier, and being able to see the impact of how assisting them on their journey has really helped them thrive is amazing.”

## 59TH MDW: INTRA-OCULAR INJECTIONS HELP PREVENT BLINDNESS



*Pamela Singleton, 59th Surgical Operations Squadron Retina Clinic manager, draws intra-ocular medication for a patient at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 14. The intra-ocular medication reduces fluid in the eye helping prevent blindness.*

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX



# Air Force awards JBSA aquatics training facility contract

By Mila Cisneros

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND  
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center awarded a \$66.6 million project June 25 to construct a mission-critical aquatics training facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in support of the Battlefield Airmen Training demands.

The project is a collaborative effort between the 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron, the Special Warfare Training Wing, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center and the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

AFCEC will oversee the project, USACE will be the execution agent to manage the design and construction, and Clark Construction Group and Bryne Construction Service will team together to execute the build of the new, state-of-the-art aquatic complex at JBSA-Lackland. The 76,000-square-foot building will consist of two enclosed, climate-controlled, indoor

swimming pools of varying depths geared to meet the training needs for the Air Force's global combat operations.

AFCEC's Facility Engineering Directorate provides design and planning, and will oversee the execution of the project, ensuring construction stays on time, within budget, delivering right-sized and mission-ready infrastructure.

"Sustainably built infrastructure is a critical element of providing power projection platforms for air and space missions," said Col. Dave Norton, deputy director of the facility engineering directorate. "The AFCEC-led project incorporates modern design concepts and cost-effective construction techniques to deliver the highest quality of training capabilities to meet mission requirements."

JBSA-Lackland, known as the "Gateway to the Air Force," is one of three main JBSA locations. The site serves as the Air Force's primary location for basic training for enlisted



COURTESY GRAPHIC

An artist's rendering of the new \$66.6 million aquatics training facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

recruits as well as several other training missions.

The construction of the training facility is a requirement for the Special Warfare Training Wing to accommodate a full range of special operations training scenarios. The new facility will accommodate training for more than 3,000 Airmen annually, equipping

them with the necessary advanced water confidence skills necessary.

"AFCEC's modern infrastructure solutions for special forces will enable Airmen to go through the full lifecycle of training, ensuring they have what they need to successfully conduct combat missions," Norton said.

AFICC and AFCEC are two primary subordinate units of AFIMSC, headquartered at JBSA-Lackland. AFIMSC provides globally integrated installation and mission support to enhance warfighter readiness and lethality for America's Air and Space Forces. For more information on AFIMSC, visit [www.afimsc.af.mil](http://www.afimsc.af.mil).

## SWHPS

From page 13

propelled it forward (was not under the old Battle Field Airmen Model). The fellowship program has since graduated eight fellows with three more due to graduate in 2021 and has secured national accreditation.

Additionally, SWHPS has established a human performance footprint, across the training pipeline that employs integrated wearable technology, along with HP technician support. This footprint enables SWHPS to track parasympathetic/sympathetic system output, sleep, musculoskeletal health, velocity-based training, and water-based event metrics to include heart rate and physiological data points.

"Another first of its kind is the HP portfolio integration with the Learning Management System/database. The integration will soon provide continuity between training and operational units," Williams said. "This allows for a human performance portfolio to travel with each member throughout their Special Warfare career."

The Squadron's Nutrition SMEs created the first stand-alone performance dining facility and now oversee all menus in support of the Special Warfare Preparatory Program.

"It provides a much-needed learning lab for trainees when they first enter Special Warfare," said Maj. Miriam Seville, the lead dietitian for the Special Warfare Training Wing. "The trainees get to practice the sports nutrition principles that they learn in class and

experiment with a wide variety of healthful foods and beverages that fuel and sustain optimal performance.

"This dining facility introduces trainees to what fueling the Human Weapon System can and should look like, and enables them to build habits here that will support them throughout their training and into operational status," she said.

In November of 2020, the SWHPS graduated the first Air Force Institute of Technology Performance Nutrition Fellow, who now brings world-class nutrition capability, guidance, and knowledge to Special Warfare programming.

Williams added a final thought on the accomplishments of the program.

"Over the past two years, SWHPS has set the foundation

for an integrated approach to building and maintaining a human weapon system. We have taken a purposeful and tailored approach to embedded HP and coupled it with real-time physiological feedback to the trainees and are also expanding care to the cadre," she said.

"The future of this organization will be to shape not only Air Force, but DOD policy to enable a lifecycle platform for the SW operator. The SW Airmen will not just experience high-level/holistic HP support in the training pipeline, but rather, they will see it woven into their career field education and training plans, and expanded services offered in their operational units," she said. "This then lends itself to the creation or standup of a human weapon

system program office just like we have for our hardware.

"We are truly on the cusp of a cohesive training environment where physiological, cognitive, and resiliency elements are assessed weekly, if not daily, to propel the individual to their highest potential versus a binary reactive environment," Williams concluded.

Members of the Special Warfare Training Wing provide initial training for all U.S. Air Force Special Warfare training AFSCs, including Combat Controllers, Pararescue, Special Reconnaissance, and Tactical Air Control Party Airmen.

To learn more about SR Airmen or other U.S. Air Force Special Warfare career opportunities, go to: <https://www.airforce.com/careers/in-demand-careers/special-warfare>.

# RANDOLPH

## myLearning digital platform expands courseware

By Air Education and Training Command  
Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command's "myLearning" system is entering phase two of its rollout, adding new features scheduled to be available to Airmen and Guardians this summer.

The Air Force's 21st Century learning system is part of the service's focus on the deliberate development of the Total Force.

"Our Airmen and Guardians, both enlisted and officer, deserve systems that enable their deliberate development," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, command chief of AETC. "The myLearning platform advances force development by meeting our personnel where they are. It's a command priority to refine or replace the outdated systems that support our personnel, which is what we've done and continue to do with the myLearning platform."

The new courses will include those previously hosted on Enterprise Blended Learning Service, or EBLs, commonly known in the force as Blackboard. The EBLs course migration helps align the myLearning service with its original goal of a centralized learning management system for all U.S. Space Force and U.S. Air Force online learning courses, linking training for Airmen and Guardians across different specialty codes, locations and more.

"We're pleased with both the performance of and the force's embrace of myLearning during the initial rollout," said Floyd A. McKinney, AETC Chief of Learning Services. "The framework we've built provides the critical IT capability to operationalize force development. We want to continue to refine myLearning and completing phase two of implementation by adding EBLs courses helps us achieve our vision of 'one-stop shopping' for online learning."



MASTER SGT. CAITLIN JONES MARTIN

*Air Education and Training Command's "myLearning" system is entering phase two of its rollout, adding new features scheduled to be available to Airmen and Guardians this summer.*

Course owners who previously hosted their classes on EBLs will be trained and given site access to build their new courses in myLearning. User training begins this month, and course personnel can expect to have access and begin migrating their courses in June.

Additionally, the AETC Learning Services Division has added features to improve the overall accessibility and functionality of myLearning.

"Learning Locker is going to store learning data and can serve as a source of record for organizations," said Bill Muse, AETC Learning Services program manager. "Intelliboard is our reporting and analytics tool, and BigBlueButton is a

conferencing system that will allow for virtual classrooms with audio, video, slide presentation, and a chat functionality within the myLearning system."

According to Muse, these new features should be fully operational on the site by mid-August.

myLearning debuted as a modern and interactive solution in March and replaced training modules previously found on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS). Since its launch, more than 300,000 Airmen and Guardians have accessed the site and completed around 361,000 courses. Additionally, myLearning has successfully migrated to CloudOne, allowing for increased functionality in cloud computing when accessing courses.

"The goal of myLearning is to embrace innovation and technology across our force," said Adam Rasmussen, AETC Deputy of Learning Services. "Our Chief of Staff, Gen. Brown, has charged all of us to accelerate change or lose, and myLearning is meeting that challenge, delivering innovative learning management capabilities like 'Learn-from-Anywhere,' digital badging, and competencies frameworks that will enable the identification of the right Airmen, for the right job, at the right time."

AETC will continue to announce updates and additional features to myLearning over the next year. So far, the system has been successfully accessed and used in over 1000 locations around the globe.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site or have feedback for the development team, submit a ticket to the myLearning Service Desk by clicking the "NEED HELP?" button. Users are asked to exercise patience as the myLearning Help Desk is working trouble tickets as quickly as possible. Please do not submit another ticket for the same issue as that further delays the system's ability to respond quickly.

## Air Force seeks civilian input on developmental education

By Toni Whaley

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Department of the Air Force civilians will get an opportunity to shape Civilian Developmental Education, or CDE, by sharing their feedback in a new survey starting today.

The Department will use the survey results to evaluate CDE application and selection processes and to improve marketing about future opportunities.

"One of the best ways to develop as a civilian employee is to participate in one of the many programs offered each year through the CDE and CSLP (Civilian Strategic Leader Program) nomination call," said Becky Venters, chief, Civilian Leadership Development and MAJCOM Training.

"We know there are a lot of high-potential civilians who don't apply for these opportunities," Venters said. "We want to learn why — so we can remove barriers and provide developmental education or

experience that aligns with their professional goals and the needs of the Air Force and Space Force."

Employees will receive a targeted email with a link to the 10-minute survey, which is voluntary, confidential, and designed to identify areas for improvement. The survey will focus on respondents' awareness of CDE opportunities, knowledge of how to apply, levels of supervisory support, and perceptions of fairness in the selection process.

"We highly encourage our civilian

employees to take a few minutes and share their input with us when they receive the email," Venters said. "Their feedback will be instrumental in helping us revise and shape the programs that develop leaders with critical skills and competencies to win any high-end fight."

Civilian Airmen and Guardians interested in taking their career to the next level can research the options on myPers at [https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/13085/kw/civilian%20force%20development](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/13085/kw/civilian%20force%20development).



# Current PCS, household goods affected by supply shortages

## Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, supply shortages have been popping up in everything from lumber to computer chips to new cars. These shortfalls are likely to affect some service members and their families this summer during the typically busy permanent change of station, or PCS, season.

According to a newly released communiqué from the Air Force's Personal Property Activity Headquarters, "Department of Defense demand this peak season has greatly exceeded commercial industry capabilities, largely due to resource constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Per industry, this resulted in a 25% decrease in their labor pool, resulting in (decreased) personal property movement capacity necessary to support private sector and government demand."

**In addition to the old "rent a truck" PPM option, Airmen now have access to new modes within the commercial industry called portable moving and storage containers. These containers are dropped at the home, the service member packs them and the company picks up, transports, stores and then delivers to the destination. Some companies also offer a menu of associated services including full or partial packing.**

To mitigate negative impacts on DoD families, the Air Force Joint Personal Property Shipping Offices are employing all available tools and options to accommodate shipment and delivery requests. Individual DoD services and United States Transportation Command leaders are working with the commercial industry to modify business rules, adding flexibility to achieve maximum carrier capacity.

For those scheduled to PCS this year, there are some

actions that can add more flexibility to your plans and help the Household Goods community with an expanded opportunity to move personal property:

- ▶ Get shipping requests in four to six weeks prior to the pickup window.
- ▶ Ask about expanding pack/pickup (a.k.a., "spread date") windows from the current seven-day requirement to 14 days.
- ▶ Contact the assignments team to determine if they can postpone the move by

changing the report not later than date.

Airmen can take more control over their move this summer by doing a personally procured move (formerly known as the Do It Yourself move). According to the communiqué, this option allows personnel to "control your move dates and ensure you have ready access to your property upon arrival at your new location. There are several PPM options, including one that reimburses up to what the government would have paid

for the move and another where you could receive a financial incentive of 100% of the government's constructed cost, plus fuel surcharge, and other (accessory costs)."

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Airmen can contact their local Personal Property Processing Office to discuss the benefits of a PPM. They can provide an estimate of the cost factors, describe the ins and outs of the programs and help determine if the PPM option is a good fit for each family.

## Air Force releases technical sergeant/21E6 promotion cycle statistics

By Tech. Sgt. Sahara L. Fales

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Department of the Air Force officials have selected 9,422 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant out of 34,973 eligible for a selection rate of 26.94% in the 21E6 promotion cycle, which includes supplemental promotion opportunities. Throughout Joint Base San Antonio, 30 staff sergeants will be making the move to E-6.

The average overall score for those selected was 350.22. Selectees' average time in grade was 4.09 years

and time in service was 9.12 years.

The technical sergeant promotion list is available on the Enlisted Promotions page of the Air Force's Personnel Center website, the Air Force Portal and myPers. Members can access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel Flight via the AFPC secure applications page.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the AFPC public website.



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