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LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JULY 30, 2021



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DUSTIN BRAATEN

A U.S. Army National Guard crew chief prepares to liftoff from Martindale Army Airfield, Texas, to Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis for a personnel recovery-survival, evasion, resistance, and escape exercise June 14.

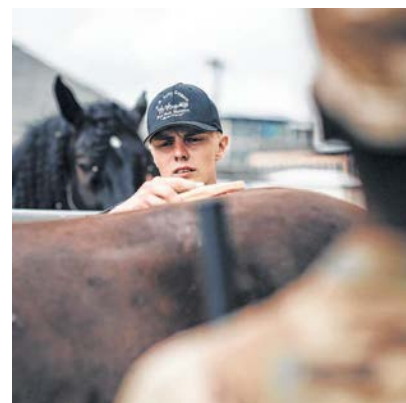
'Operation Dustoff Vigilance' joint exercise strengthens survival skills

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Ready EAGLE exercise helps 59th MDW ensure readiness

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U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon trains, cares for horses

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Pilots leaving active duty have safe landing place

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As COVID-19 travel restrictions ease around the world, commercial airlines are looking to hire more pilots. Air Force officials want to remind active-duty pilots leaving the Air Force for the civilian aviation industry that such a move doesn't have to end their service to their country.

Air Force Recruiting Service's top recruiter said keeping trained pilots in uniform is one of the Air Force's top priorities. AFRS is a Total Force recruiting enterprise charged with finding Airmen and civilians to serve full or part-time, in or out of uniform.

"COVID-19 tipped the balances for many Airmen deciding whether to stay in the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, AFRS commander. "Now that the country is opening up, Airmen who wanted to hit the pause button on active duty will consider moving out with their separation plans. For those who do, we want to keep them on the team and benefit from their training and talent in the Guard or Reserve. With our nation's pilot shortage, keeping our world-class aviators flying for our Total Force is critical."

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard allow former active duty pilots to continue their military service while giving them supplemental income and benefits, should the airline industry experience slow-downs or setbacks in the future.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many airline pilots were furloughed as the industry came to a screeching halt. Commercial pilots serving in an Air Reserve Component were able to stay employed, work toward retirement and continue receiving benefits.

"The nature of the airline industry is cyclical," said Brig. Gen. Derin Durham, Air Force Reserve Command's director of

Air, Space and Information Operations. "I have seen it swing many times, with wars, terrorist attacks, economic downturns and now, pandemics. Many factors can affect the industry. The one constant for many of these airline pilots is the Guard or Reserve. We are able to keep them whole, pay bills and weather the storm until things turn around."

The Reserve components are eager to bring in these fully qualified Airmen.

"Retaining trained Airmen is the primary reason for the ARC's existence," Durham said. "The nation has invested millions of dollars in training these great Americans to protect and defend our way of life. As a Reserve Component member, that training continues to be honed and exercised, ready in order to guarantee that warfighting capability and strategic depth when called upon."

The general said about 75% of Airmen who switch to the Reserve after their active duty tour continue serving until they earn a Reserve retirement. Many stay until they reach their mandatory retirement age of 60.

"We strive to make Reserve service something our members love to do," he said. "They do it for the mission, the people and the satisfaction of knowing they are still making a contribution to their country."

For the Reserve and Guard, gaining pilots from active duty not only brings in a wealth of knowledge and experience, but it also saves total Air Force dollars on training costs and pilot training seats.

"Due to pilot training capacity limitations, we are unable to train the number of pilots we need to meet readiness requirements," said Col. Eugene Smith, 367th Recruiting Group commander. "Capturing rated pilots from active duty is critical to fill Air Force Reserve flying unit vacancies. An additional benefit is that the majority of Reserve

pilots are also pilots in the civilian world. The networking opportunities are vast for future growth as they transition into civilian life."

Retaining pilots is also critical to military readiness and preparedness.

"The Air National Guard is focused on ensuring pilots remain in the Total Force," said Col. Nashid Salahuddin, ANG Recruiting and Retention Division chief. "If pilots decide to leave active duty to pursue airline positions, the ANG or Air Force Reserve are the perfect way for them to continue serving part-time. It's critically important to the ANG and the Air Force that we retain pilots in the Total Force. From a readiness perspective, if we maintain this talent, regardless of which component they're in, they're accessible for our wartime mission."

The colonel said that over the past 12 months, ANG pilot manning has gone from 80% to 82%.

"Although we've made progress, we need to aggressively bring in new talent and retain existing talent," he said. "If there's an increase in the number of active-duty pilots separating to accept full-time positions with the airlines, it presents an opportunity for them to join the Air National Guard as part-time members."

The Guard has designated recruiters to work with rated officers coming off active duty.

"ANG In-Service Recruiting has created a team of four ISRs who specifically field inquiries for rated officers," Salahuddin said. "They will send special messaging to rated members separating six to 12 months out, and then pass them to this specific team of ISRs to highlight the benefits of maintaining affiliation and walk them through the process from beginning to accession into the ANG."

For the Reserve, pilot manning is currently around 95%, said Douglas Miller, AFRC Operations Resource Division

chief.

"We work with the Air Force Personnel Center and get a monthly list of aircrew, officer and enlisted who are separating active duty," Miller said. "I have a pilot IMA (individual mobilization augmentee) who personally makes contact with each individual to discuss Reserve opportunities."

He said recent policy changes have made it more difficult to attract pilots leaving active duty.

"The increase in the Undergraduate Pilot Training service commitment from six-to-eight years to eight-to-10 years has reduced the time active duty separations spend in AFRC and created a two-year period when very few pilots were able to separate and affiliate," Miller said. "In addition, the 201 Budget Control Act significantly reduced active duty pilot production from 2013 through 2017."

Miller said starting in 2023, pilots will have a 10-year active duty service commitment, which will result in reduced affiliations with AFRC.

"This is requiring us to increase UPT graduates and give them experience, which comes with a significant cost to AFRC," Miller said.

The pandemic has created some unique challenges for the Air Force in the area of recruiting and retention. A large number of Airmen who planned to retire or leave the military decided to stay in during these uncertain times.

"While we have not been able to recruit many from the active component, those members we have are choosing to stay for the benefits the Reserve component can offer," Durham said.

Smith pointed out several advantages for those considering continuing their service in the Reserve.

"Joining the Reserve is a great way to network, continue with the camaraderie you love, get numerous great benefits and continue serving your country," 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 has been more than a year since I wrote to the Civil Engineers concerning the disrepair of the pavement

leaving the Luke East Gate at JBSA-Lackland and it still has not been repaired.

What seems to be the problem getting it repaired? It is widely used and an embarrassment to the United States Air Force. Does anyone care?

It is to the point that vehicles leaving the base could have damage to their vehicles from this. What can be done to fix this situation?

A. The 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron has been actively executing key road repair projects across Joint Base San Antonio in the last few years and is aggressively working through the



COURTESY GRAPHIC

long list of requirements that still remain.

To that end, the civil engineer squadron, in partnership with the 502nd Contracting Squadron, just awarded a contract to replace the pop-up bollards at Luke East Gate,

which will include the repair of sections of the road that are in poor shape.

The project will start in August 2021 and is estimated to be completed at the end of this calendar year.

DOD takes phased approach to implementing recommendations on sexual assault, harassment

By C. Todd Lopez
DOD NEWS

The Department of Defense plans to move forward with all of the recommendations made by an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military. The commission's findings and 82 recommendations were made public earlier this month, and the department will move cautiously and deliberately in implementing each of them, the deputy defense secretary said.

"I am taking a phased approach to developing comprehensive implementation plans across all of these recommendations," said Kathleen H. Hicks during testimony yesterday before the House Armed Services Committee. "Although we are on a fast timeline, our approach is methodical and deliberate."

The Defense Department, Hicks reminded lawmakers, is the largest organization within the federal

"We will see to it that every corner of the department implements these changes in letter and in spirit.

Our service members deserve no less, and our combat effectiveness depends on our success."

Kathleen H. Hicks, Deputy Defense Secretary

government, with nearly 2.9 million service members and civilians working at 4,800 sites in more than 160 countries. It'll be a challenge to implement the IRC's recommendations, she said.

"This issue set will require substantial leadership at all levels to ensure changes that challenge us in culture, resources and time ... are effective and enduring," she said. "We have no intention of rushing to failure and risking the loss of faith from those who have trusted us and to lose the trust of another generation of service members."

Hicks said she's been given until

the end of the summer to go through all 82 recommendations and find a path forward for implementing each of them.

"Once we have our roadmap in place, our efforts will be consistently monitored by me and the department's senior-most leadership via the deputy's workforce council," she said. "The secretary and I are committed to ensuring sustained attention to drive these changes as effectively and expeditiously as possible."

Chief among the recommendations of the IRC is who will be charged with prosecuting

those suspected of committing sexual assault in the ranks. Until now, it's been the domain of commanders to decide how to move forward when made aware of a sexual assault. With commanders no longer handling the prosecution of sexual assaults, the department plans to create dedicated offices within each military service to take over that role.

Also among recommendations made by the IRC is that sexual harassment charges be handled by investigators trained to handle special victims cases. The services will also create professional career tracks for lawyers and investigators in sexual assault investigation and prosecution.

"We will see to it that every corner of the department implements these changes in letter and in spirit," Hicks said. "Our service members deserve no less, and our combat effectiveness depends on our success."

Striving for excellence key to work-life balance

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

Work-life balance is a growing societal problem, and military members are no exception.

In the Let's Get Social survey conducted by Joint Base San Antonio Military & Family Readiness Centers, work-life balance was identified as the number one area of concern among the 274 military-related members who participated in the survey.

According to Criselda Guerrero-Smith, Personal/Work-Life Program Lead at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, the key to finding the right work-life balance centers on striving for excellence.

"When we talk about work-life balance, we try to talk to people about aiming for excellence versus perfectionism," Guerrero-Smith said.

Guerrero-Smith said work-life balance is the concept of individuals balancing their work life and their home life, with the goal of making quality time with their families and engaging in activities that help reduce stress. She said individuals should let go of being perfectionists, and instead strive for excellence.

"For a lot of people, when we talk about work-life balance, they tend to present themselves as perfectionists, whether at home or in a working environment or even both," Guerrero-Smith said. "As it evolves, they continue this perfectionist approach to life, and it can be overwhelming."

In contrast, Guerrero-Smith said striving for excellence makes people aware that they will make mistakes along the



CHRISTIAN CHAN

Work-life balance is a growing societal problem, and military members are no exception.

way and there are more than several ways to accomplish a goal or job.

"Usually when we're talking about excellence, we really talk to the idea you got the job done," she said. "You have a few hiccups along the way; it wasn't exactly the way you wanted it, but you got the end goal and again, it's allowing an area for individuals to breathe. Being able to have empathy for yourself to say, 'I'm doing an excellent job, it's not perfect but it's a great job and so I know my leadership is good.'"

Guerrero-Smith said it is up to each individual to find an approach to work-life balance which works for them. This includes finding activities that help reduce stress such as exercise, doing relaxing activities with family or friends, finding a hobby you enjoy and other activities that reduce stress and allow you to unplug from work.

For those who are teleworking from home, finding a work-life balance can

be challenging since work and home life have become blended, Guerrero-Smith said. But she said it's important for individuals to set aside time for themselves and their families.

"When I'm at home, I need to make sure that is my quality time, making sure I'm attentive to what's going on in the home environment," she said.

Guerrero-Smith said finding the right work-life balance is different for each individual, depending on what they are experiencing at work and their home life.

"When it comes to work-life balance, it is personal," Guerrero-Smith said. "It's personal because we get to make the decisions of whether or not we're going to be reactive to everything that presents itself in front of us, or we're going to actually pause and look at the situation for what it is and take care of it ourselves."

In addition, when coming up with a plan for work-life balance, Guerrero-Smith said

individuals need to weigh the expectations they have from work and their families.

"Balancing that out is just knowing and being aware that there is a challenge that's lying ahead, and by taking a proactive approach of pausing and looking at the situation for what it is," she said. "It will certainly, hopefully, allow for individuals to respond better. If we don't pause, we jump in with both feet; it can be exhausting. Work-life balance begins with taking control of your choices."

Guerrero-Smith said obtaining a work-life balance includes limiting or eliminating time-wasting activities; for example, watching too much TV, or being around negative people that prevent you from reaching your goals or don't help you get ahead.

When it comes to work-life balance, it is up to individuals to find the best ways to balance their time between work and family and/or home life,

"When it comes to work-life balance, it is personal. It's personal because we get to make the decisions of whether or not we're going to be reactive to everything that presents itself in front of us, or we're going to actually pause and look at the situation for what it is and take care of it ourselves."

**Criselda Guerrero-Smith,
Personal/Work-Life
Program Lead at the JBSA-
Fort Sam Houston M&FRC**

knowing their limits when doing an activity, knowing how much is too much when participating in an activity and knowing when to ask for help, especially from family, friends or Military Family and Life Counselors and consultants affiliated with JBSA M&FRCs, said Guerrero-Smith.

The JBSA community offers several resilience resources that help promote a healthy work-life balance. JBSA M&FRCs offer several classes which can offer help, tips and suggestions on finding the right work-life balance for service members, military family members and government civilians. Information on the classes can be found on the JBSA M&FRC website at <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/>, by clicking on the calendar of events for M&FRCs.

Also, JBSA members can contact M&FRCs at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722, or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321, for more information.

Tips to increase innovation at your unit

By Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

A common question Airmen ask regarding innovation is “How do I get my unit to embrace innovation?”

According to Headquarters Air Education and Training Command’s Innovation Advancement Division, an Airman’s daily actions can foster an environment that leads their unit to embrace an innovation culture.

Below are five tips Airmen can take to strengthen their unit’s innovation culture.

Create an environment of innovation

Work areas can aid in creating an environment to provoke creative thought. Develop a workplace where team members feel comfortable openly expressing and sharing new ideas without facing a crowd of doubters, skeptics and naysayers.

Analyze successes and losses

An unsuccessful project provides an opportunity to leverage lessons learned. If a project fails, learn from the data and try again. A successful project can outline pathways and provide insight for concepts. Fact-based hotwashes of swings and misses provide valuable insight for future innovative efforts.

Be open to change

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.’s action orders highlight the need for all Airmen to aggressively move forward and push toward change. Be the change agent.

Do not expect perfection

Innovations start with an idea, which innovators develop into a concept, then experiment and, if all goes well, effect long-term change to operations. Anticipate trial and error (think Thomas Edison and the lightbulb). Innovations may take multiple iterations to achieve success.

Foster innovation across all levels

Innovative ideas can come from all Airmen, across the Total Force. An individual’s personal experiences can lead them to innovative ideas and those innovative ideas can lead to innovation. Rank, position or career field is not necessarily a factor. Sometimes the most dramatic change comes from a “fresh pair of eyes.”

According to Col. Thomas F. Wegner, HQ AETC’s director of analysis and innovation, implementing these five tips can increase a unit’s ability to solve challenges, enhance the innovation culture, and turn creative ideas into innovations.

“Commanders should encourage their Airmen to challenge assumptions and envision a whole new



approach to solving problems,” he said. “Then, give their Airmen an environment where they have the freedom to experiment and learn what works and what doesn’t. Airmen with this level of innovative freedom will develop the next groundbreaking innovation. It’s just a matter of time.”

JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers support total community resilience

By Lori A. Bultman
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio is the largest joint base in the Department of Defense, and maintaining community resilience within such a large organization, representing all branches of the U.S. military, can be quite a task. That is why all JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers are open to anyone military-connected who needs support.

The JBSA M&FRCs incorporate Airman and Family Readiness, Army Community Service, Marine and Family Programs, Coast Guard Work-Life, and Fleet and Family Support ideals to provide a full range of programs and services to support mission and personal readiness, said Sally Gonzalez, Exceptional Family Member Program manager and a member of the 502nd Family Support Group's Community Resiliency Working Group.

"One of the M&FRC's primary functions is to build community resilience by linking service members and their families with the right resources to meet their specific needs, whether those resources are on JBSA or within the local community," she said. "The goal of the working group is to ensure everyone knows the services provided are open to all branches of service, active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members, retirees, surviving spouses, their families, and DOD civilian employees, unless otherwise stated," Gonzalez said.

"We want the JBSA community to know that these are their programs," she said. "The program might have a

"One of the M&FRC's primary functions is to build community resilience by linking service members and their families with the right resources to meet their specific needs, whether those resources are on JBSA or within the local community."

Sally Gonzalez, Exceptional Family Member Program manager and a member of the 502nd Family Support Group's Community Resiliency Working Group



CIARA GOSIER

Enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program is mandatory for military families with special needs. It is required in order to enroll in TRICARE ECHO, or extended care health option, and ensures the family's needs are considered during the assignment process.

different name than you are used to, but the services are equal to what you are used to."

Gonzalez said on JBSA, the M&FRCs offer a variety of learning sessions and one-on-one consultation opportunities to support individuals, families, and leadership with programs that strengthen the entire community, encourage self-sufficiency, enhance mission readiness and resiliency, and ease adaptation to the military way of life.

Workshops and classes include subjects such as

financial wellness, employment readiness, transition assistance, the Exceptional Family Member Program, relocation assistance, immigration and citizenship, and many more.

Financial classes include subjects like managing finances in marriage and when having a child, credit and debt management, car buying, how to budget, and many more.

Employment Readiness seminars include interviewing skills, resume writing, and navigating USAJOBS, as well as classes to build computer

skills.

Transition Assistance offerings include sessions for incoming or outgoing members on Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services, career transition services, and the Department of Defense Skillbridge or Career Skills Program.

"Not only do we help those who may be at the beginning of their career, but we also assist those transitioning out of the military," said Jon Vance, Transition Services manager at JBSA. "From translating their military experience and preparing a

resume to a post-military financial plan, and so on, we work with transitioning service members to ensure they are as prepared for the smoothest transition possible."

Vance said he feels it is just as important that they take the time to assist people through any aspect of their life, not just the ones new to DOD.

The M&FRCs also offer appointments with Military and Family Life Counselors, opportunities with Volunteer Services, information related to Voting Assistance, Personal and Work-Life, Deployment Readiness, and more.

For those unable to attend group programs, the M&FRCs offer one-on-one consultations, and, while walk-ins are welcome, Gonzalez said it is best to schedule an appointment by calling the closest M&FRC: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705 or 210-221-2418; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321.

Individual units on JBSA can also request workshops, briefings or classes be brought to their location by any one of the JBSA M&FRCs.

"Sometimes it's hard for military members to make the time for the classes and other opportunities we offer," Gonzalez said. "Bringing our services to the units can help many people at once and may also help improve the resiliency of the entire group."

Additional M&FRC program information can be found on the JBSA M&FRC Facebook Page or at <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/>. Click on "Calendar of Events" for a current schedule of available offerings.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

‘Operation Dustoff Vigilance’ joint exercise strengthens survival skills

By Col. Kjäll Gopaul

HEADQUARTERS AIR EDUCATION
AND TRAINING COMMAND

In a display of multi-service integration, Total Force service members from the Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active duty converged on Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis June 14 for an exercise dubbed “Operation Dustoff Vigilance” — a day-long mission to strengthen the personnel recovery-survival, evasion, resistance, and escape, or PR-SERE, skills of Army aircrews and aviation support personnel.

Spearheaded by Company C, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, “Alamo Dustoff” — an air ambulance unit of the Texas Army National Guard at Martindale Army Airfield in San Antonio — the exercise placed 30 service members behind enemy lines in the imaginary Eastern European nation of Krasnovia to test their skills and resolve.

“The purpose was to run the aircrews through their annual evasion exercise to use their combat survivor/evader locator radio to navigate point-to-point, exercise their resistance skills and conduct link-up procedures,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard W. Swan, C/2-149 Aviation Regiment mission survivability officer. “It is important to be able to use the equipment we carry on our aircraft, as well as affect our own rescue in the event we go down in a denied environment.”

“The scenario had a UH-60 Black Hawk with its 5-person aircrew brought down by small



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DUSTIN BRAATEN

Independent Duty Medical Technicians standby to deliver a mannequin to a medivac Black Hawk at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis June 14.

arms fire in a non-permissive environment. The team was assaulted and pushed off the landing zone by Krasnovian extremist forces,” said mission planner, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew V. Kinh, C/2-149 Aviation Regiment aeromedical evacuation pilot. “Using their survival gear and special instructions, each team had to evade capture traveling through the foreign landscape, link up with friendly Krasnovian confederates, and make their way to a pick-up zone for extraction by another helicopter.

“Some teams experienced a

‘roll-up’ in which they were captured and interrogated by extremist forces. Having an opposing force, or OPFOR, on the initial landing and for the roll-ups dramatically increased the training value,” Kinh added. “It heightened the level of uncertainty throughout the scenario and had the aircrews deliberately implement their PR-SERE skills.”

The 343rd Training Squadron at JBSA-Camp Bullis provided the Krasnovian role-players.

“We were part of the pre-mission coordination and recon with the exercise planner

and got a really good idea of what they wanted,” said Tech. Sgt. James M. Pitman, 343rd TRS instructor for the Security Forces Intermediate Course and OPFOR non-commissioned officer in charge. “We used signaling smoke, simulated small arms fire, an assault team, blindfolds and detainee handling to increase the realism and production value for each aircrew’s turn on the PR lane. This exercise took it up a level for us as well, with live aircraft on the LZ (landing zone) and PZ (pickup zone). The post-exercise feedback really highlighted how much

our OPFOR capabilities contribute to the training value of exercises at JBSA-Camp Bullis.”

The 343rd TRS also provided friendly Krasnovian confederates to ferry simulated aircrew injuries to litters awaiting aircraft on the extraction LZ.

“This was a great opportunity for our medics to practice their MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) skills with a live aircraft, be active participants in an exercise, and still provide responsive care for our other partner units at JBSA-Camp Bullis,” said Tech. Sgt. Casey Pritchett, non-commissioned officer in charge of medical operations for the 343rd TRS JBSA-Camp Bullis aid station.

During the scenarios, 433rd Airlift Wing and Reserve recruiters from Air Force Recruiting Service provided participants to role-play Krasnovian refugees being extracted for humanitarian relief purposes.

“First and foremost, from a regulatory standpoint, we have a requirement as part of our aircrew training program to conduct a personnel recovery exercise. While we can do online training, nothing beats a hands-on experience out in the field,” said Maj. Jeremy Eubanks, commander, C/2-149 Aviation Regiment. “It really created an opportunity for us to put together all of the principles of personnel recovery along with the key elements of the Code of Conduct and practice those skills in a realistic and stressful environment.

EXERCISE continues on 9

U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon works hard to train, care for horses



SGT. DAVID COOK

Caroline Stryjewski, an equine trainer for the U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon, conducts groundwork exercises with one of the Caisson platoon's horses at the Fort Sam Houston Caisson stable at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston May 27.

By Sgt. David Cook
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The mission of the U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is to honor fallen members of the military with funeral honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and the surrounding area, which includes approximately 58 counties of Texas.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the Fort Sam Houston Caisson Platoon was formed in honor of Army Col. Karen Wagner's death at the Pentagon.

Wagner was previously stationed at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and held a close relationship with the San Antonio area. As a result, the Fort Sill Field Artillery Half Section traveled to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston to conduct her funeral honors.

The Fort Sam Houston

community then realized the need for a dedicated caisson platoon in the area and ARNORTH answered the call.

A caisson is a chest or wagon historically used to carry ammunition. It conveys the casket of the fallen military member, drawn by four harnessed horses.

It is one of only two active duty, full-time caisson units in the U.S. Army. The one most people are familiar with is the Old Guard caisson platoon at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Fort Sam Houston Caisson Platoon also supports the San Antonio community through various events such as parades and mounted Color Guards to highlight the United States Army and its various missions throughout the world.

Regular care for the unit's horses falls to Caisson Platoon Soldiers, with advice from the contracted herd manager and equine trainers.

Fort Sam Houston ISD offers free, reduced-price meals for qualified families

By Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District recently announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

FSHISD will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at the Child Nutrition Office or Administration office of each school or can be downloaded and printed at <http://www.fshisd.net>.

Criteria for free and reduced-price meal benefits

The following criteria determines a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income
▶ Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

Categorical or Automatic Eligibility
▶ Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPPIR)

Program Participant
▶ Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
▶ Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to the school or campus cafeteria. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:
▶ Names of all household members.
▶ Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
▶ Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult

does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number."

▶ Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Categorical or program eligibility

Fort Sam Houston ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible and will notify the households of these children that they don't need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Brenda Rodriguez, Child Nutrition Director, at 210-368-8745. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should also contact Rodriguez.

Applications can be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications can also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

The housing allowance for military

personnel living in privatized housing will be permanently excluded from income when determining household eligibility for free and reduce-price meals.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the child nutrition director will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis.

Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Julie Novak, Chief Financial Officer, 4005 Winans Road, San Antonio, Texas 78234, or call 210-368-8700.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the current income eligibility guideline.

502nd ABW keeps up with area chambers

By Kathy Salazar
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio Annual Chamber Summit was hosted by Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center July 20, bringing together chambers of commerce from throughout the JBSA area.

The summit not only provided an opportunity to network and keep strong connections with the local communities but also allowed for updates about JBSA.

"This is a great community. The support we get from the community is the reason why so many large organizations want to come here," Miller said.

Miller highlighted future growth at JBSA, to include the T-7A Red Hawk at JBSA-Randolph in 2024.

A big win for JBSA includes back-to-back nominations as a finalist for the Commander-In-Chief's Installation Excellence Award.

"Some installations never even get this opportunity, so to be nominated twice is a huge win," Miller said. "The \$750,000 in second-place winnings will go to JBSA installations to provide quality-of-life support for our service members and their families."

Michael "Apollo" Lovell, JBSA-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative and 5G executive director, provided information on his program's recent accomplishments and discussed how JBSA is partnering with



CIARA GOSIER

The Joint Base San Antonio Annual Chamber Summit was hosted by Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller (center left), 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center July 20, bringing together chambers of commerce from throughout the JBSA area.

surrounding communities.

"Our partnership with the Department of Defense has launched us into the national level of test programs and experimentation," Lovell said. "JBSA has become a national pilot test in support of Presidential Executive Order No. 13865, Coordinating National Resilience to Electromagnetic Pulses, and is the DOD's largest fifth generation cellular (5G) research site.

"One of the reasons San Antonio was selected was because of the community," he said. "The pilot test and 5G program management office will bring an economic impact not only to the military but also to the community, with a significant financial investment."

Another partnership success for JBSA is with the AACOG

Law Enforcement Academy.

"The academy gives us the opportunity to expand our training and have access to training technologies in areas where we are not able to do or acquire internally," Miller explained.

The program also provides the ability to partner between the agencies — to include the Southwest Texas Fusion Center — promoting operational, intelligence, communications and real-time situational awareness.

"It has not only augmented core-required training for our Security Forces but has also improved the ability to coordinate and conduct exercises with our non-military law enforcement partners for events that cross federal and non-federal jurisdictions," said Lt. Col. Charles Haag, 502nd

Security Forces Group deputy commander. "This partnership is a success model for the entire nation."

JBSA is partnering with the Workforce and Transition Alliance, which helps transitioning service members, military spouses and family members throughout JBSA as well as helping communities by providing them an opportunity to have collective impact.

"Our goal is to share and synchronize employment, education, entrepreneurship and build the workforce in San Antonio," Miller said. The program has grown to more than 160 government, and non-government agencies, veteran nonprofits and employer partners.

JBSA's SkillBridge/Career Skills Program, helps connect employers to potential

employees who are ready to join the civilian workforce.

"We are looking to expand the program and work with the Texas Workforce Commission to provide more training opportunities," said Serafina De Los Santos, 502nd Force Support Group executive director. "We're looking forward to crossing the \$1 million dollar threshold in unemployment compensation savings for the Department of Defense."

"This summit is a reminder of the value that our defense community contributes to the region, business community, and economy and that JBSA understands the value for partnerships with area chambers," said Leticia Peña Martínez, North San Antonio Chamber advocacy and business development vice president.

EXERCISE

From page 7

"We take the training seriously because these valuable skills are essential for our deployed mission and will make the difference in our successful recovery when there is a real threat out there that we

have to contend with," Eubanks added. "I can't say enough good things about the partnership we have with the Air Force units in San Antonio and the role that the OPFOR roll-up played, in particular, for this mission to practice first-hand those principles of the Code of Conduct. By leveraging a lot of the relationships we have with

JBSA, we came up with a great plan that was well executed with high training value. All of the aircrew members had nothing but great things to say about what an awesome training event it was.

"Army MEDEVAC rotary-wing units have the mission for intra-theater patient evacuation, regardless

of the service branch, and National Guard and Reserve components make up 57% of the total Army MEDEVAC force," Eubanks said. "Alamo Dustoff is a great unit, and we have the opportunity to prepare and deploy alongside our active duty brethren for overseas missions, and we help out here on the home front, whether it's

flood, rescue or wildfire suppression.

"That's the big draw of serving in the National Guard — being able to do both missions. Working with JBSA and leveraging all that we have to offer in San Antonio creates much richer training experiences than if you just try to do everything yourself."

Active duty service members needed for vaccine study

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A team of researchers is conducting an observational study involving active duty service members who have received COVID-19 vaccines. The Vaccine Effectiveness and Immune Response of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines in Active Military Personnel study aims to help the Defense Department better understand how well COVID-19 vaccines protect service members.

“The VIRAMP study will assess vaccine protection against both symptomatic and asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, including emerging variants,” said Air Force Col. (Dr.) Jason F. Okulicz, Infectious Disease physician and principal investigator at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Study participants must:

- ▶ Be active duty service members 18-65 years of age stationed at Joint Base San Antonio.
- ▶ Have received or are planning

to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

- ▶ Be willing to provide blood and saliva samples as required throughout the study.
- ▶ Be healthy at the time of enrollment.
- ▶ Not anticipate military separation or deployment within six months of enrollment.

“We know COVID-19 vaccination is key to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic; however, there are many unresolved questions about the durability of protection and the impact of emerging COVID-19 variants,” Okulicz said. “VIRAMP is a DOD-sponsored study that will address these knowledge gaps by analyzing health data, blood, and saliva samples from participants who have received COVID-19 vaccination.”

In order to characterize “breakthrough” infections that might occur, the saliva samples will be evaluated for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and blood samples will be analyzed to map the antibody response over

time. This information will be used to describe social and epidemiologic factors that could be related to infections and may inform additional vaccine strategies to combat the pandemic.

“Volunteers will be asked to self-report vaccination history, and provide a weekly report by completing a survey of their health status to the study team,” Okulicz added.

Active duty service members who are willing to participate in this study or would like more information can call BAMC at 253-924-9416 or Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at 253-341-6095; or email covidbmc@genevausa.org or covidwhasc@genevausa.org.

“We are actively seeking additional volunteers to reach our enrollment goal of 500 active duty members at JBSA,” Okulicz said. “We have two convenient locations outside BAMC and WHASC, so please contact our study team if you are interested.”

W. Ed Parker Youth Programs to host Back to School Carnival Aug. 7

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Schoolchildren and families can take advantage of free school supplies, take part in activities and have a chance to win prizes during the Back to School Carnival from 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 7, at the W. Ed Parker Youth Programs, building 1630 on Watkins Path at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The free event, which is being put on by the 502nd Force Support Squadron and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs, is open to active duty military family members and all Department of Defense government civilians and their families.

School supplies will be distributed to school aged children on a first-come, first-served basis. Activities include games and music.

Active members of the W. Ed Parker Youth Programs will receive a ticket, one per family, for a chance to win a door prize. Any parent whose child wants to become a member of youth programs can come by W. Ed Parker Youth Programs to sign them up.

Food and refreshments, including hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be served at the carnival.

For more information, call youth programs at 210-221-3502. More information on the carnival is at www.jbsatoday.com and at Facebook.com /502JB SAFSS.



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

August

Attention

Due to COVID-19 event times and dates may change, and for the safety of both staff and customers, current HPCON guidance will be followed at all locations.

Bowling

Bowlers get ready to go back to school

Join us at any JBSA Bowling Center Aug. 10-13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and enter to win a backpack loaded with school supplies. Two backpacks will be given out at each location and the drawing will be held on Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-4740, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6271.

Single military members bowl for free

All JBSA Bowling Centers are inviting single active-duty military members to come out and bowl three games for free during their single military member nights. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston offers this deal every Sunday from 3-7 p.m., JBSA-Lackland every Thursday from 4:30-7:30 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. For more information call, 210-221-4740.

Customers enjoy special rates

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center every Tuesday from opening to closing for a \$5 Bowling Special. Patrons will play three games for \$5. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

The JBSA-Lackland Bowling Center offers a special \$7.50 per hour rate Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons can also come out Thursdays from opening to closing or Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for three games for only \$5. For more information call, 210-671-1234.

Patrons bowl under the stars

Check out the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. for Galactic Bowling. Galactic Bowling features cosmic lights combined with LED Center Punch Deck Lighting, LED Lane Capping, LED Ceiling Lights and is enhanced with three 118" projection screens playing "mom approved" music videos. Select your preferred exciting option to bowl at the special rate of \$15 per hour per hour of bowling. For more information, call 210-652-6271.

Diners earn a free meal

JBSA Bowling Centers are proud to offer the frequent diner card program. Pick up a frequent diner card at any JBSA Bowling or Golf Course Snack Bar. These cards are good at all JBSA Bowling and Golf Operations. After purchasing 10 combo meals, the 11th is free. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-4740, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6271.

Clubs

Kids start the school year off right

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club hosts Back to School Kiddy Bingo Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. Children 12 and younger play for free, win prizes and receive a backpack with school supplies. Participants play a total of five games of bingo. This event is free and seating is limited. Reservations begin July 27 for club members and Aug. 3 for non-members. To register or for more information please call 210-658-7445 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com.

Families attend a movie

Bring the family out Aug. 21 from 4-7 p.m. to the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for family movie night. In addition to a movie patrons can take part in arts and crafts, face painting, a photo booth, and more. Food and refreshments will be sold. Event is reservation only. It is free for members and only \$5 per person for nonmembers. The Parr Club will start taking reservations Aug. 3 for club members and Aug. 10 for nonmembers. Please call 210-658-7445 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or email us at jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com to make a reservation or for more information. Coupons, club bucks, or gift certificates are not accepted as payment for this event.

Grandparents are celebrated

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Aug. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a celebration of all grandparents. This luncheon is held in the ballroom and features contests, prizes, and a buffet. Music is provided by OMG Sounds. The buffet includes fresh fruit salad, traditional tossed salad, chicken tenders with BBQ honey mustard sauce, golden brown macaroni & cheese, green beans, crinkle cut French fries, spaghetti with marinara sauce & meatballs, bread sticks, double chocolate cake, banana pudding with vanilla wafers and a gourmet cookie display. The price for this event is \$10 per person for members and \$12 per person for nonmembers. Make your reservation for this event between Aug. 3 and Aug. 25. Payment is required at time of reservation. Refunds will not be made after Aug. 26. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

Customers are appreciated

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts Bingo Customer Appreciation Day Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Come out and play some Bingo while the Kendrick Club shows appreciation to all their customers. Bingo Customer Appreciation Day includes a free dinner, and a \$500 pay-out for special bingo patterns and a double pay out for the wheel. For more information, please call 210-652-3056.

Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo takes place at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club every Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday-Thursday at

6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom. There is limited and social distanced seating. Admission is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members have the chance to win full jackpots and nonmembers can try to win half jackpots. Don't forget to play every Tuesday and Wednesday to qualify for the monthly member prize give-away. Prizes for Aug. are designer purses.

Play Aug. 2 and 16 for Bingo Extravaganza at 6:30 p.m. where patrons have a chance to win a jackpot of up to \$15,000. Aug. birthdays are celebrated on Aug. 10 with Birthday Bingo. Receive a complimentary bingo machine for more chances to win. Birthday Bingo is for Randolph Club members only. DoD ID card and proof of membership required for Birthday Bingo. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Canyon Lake

Patrons save money with an annual pass

Purchase a Canyon Lake annual pass for only \$75. Pass holders get into both the Sunny Side and Hancock Cove side of the park. Otherwise, the daily entry fee for the park is \$10 per visit, per vehicle. Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass and are valid for one year from date of issue. For more lodging information, call 210-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com and for boat rentals and marina information, please email jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com.

Customers have fun on the water

JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon lake encourages everyone to enjoy the summer out on the water. Now thru September 2021, rent a boat 10 times for a minimum of 4 hours and get the 11th for free. The price includes all required safety equipment such as life vests but does not include fuel. The rentals are on a reservation only basis. Email jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com for reservations. Patrons must have taken the boater's safety course through the State of Texas to be able to rent a boat.

Community Services

Patrons are heard at karaoke night

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Sam Houston Community Center for a night of Karaoke. Held Aug. 6 from 6-9 p.m. there is a \$5 cover charge for this event and includes lite snacks. Adult beverages are available for purchase. Prizes will be given out during the event. To make a reservation, please call us 210-808-6263 or email us at fsamevents@gmail.com.

Fun is had with a makers class

Grab a friend and join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Sam Houston Community Center Aug. 14 from 6-9 p.m. for a makers class. Patrons learn how to create a beautiful fall garland. The cost is \$25 per

JBSA FSS

person and includes all supplies. Reservations are required no later than one week prior to the class. To sign up or for more information, please call us at 210-808-6263 or email us at fssamevents@gmail.com.

Patrons test their knowledge with a trivia contest

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Sam Houston Community Center Aug. 20 from 6-9 p.m. for their first ever trivia event. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. Hang out with friends and win some prizes. To make a reservation, please call us 210-808-6263 or email us at fssamevents@gmail.com.

Patrons keep their cars road ready

Let the JBSA-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop technicians prepare your vehicle for any vacations planned during the hottest season of the year. The full service department provides tune-ups, charging system tests, oil changes, undercarriage, suspension and drive-line inspections, A/C systems performance test, repairs, Texas state inspections and more.

The self-service side gives the do-it-yourself crowd a place to work on a vehicle and access to many tools that may not be in a home garage. Moreover, since COVID-19 is still around, the Auto Hobby Shop is still offering a complete vehicle disinfection service for only \$35. To make an appointment, call 210-671-3549. Please note the following changes in business hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Sunday and Monday.

Equestrian Center

Customers go on trail rides every weekend

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center encourages everyone age 7 and older to come out for a trail ride. No experience is required and rides are by appointment only every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Trail rides are \$30 per rider. All riders must arrive 30 minutes prior to their appointment time. Adults must accompany children under the age of 13. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Weekday trail rides, group rides and team-building rides are available by appointment for \$40 per person. To make reservations, call 210-224-7207.

For the smaller riders that aren't quite ready for trail rides the equestrian center also offers parent-led pony rides for \$10 for children age 6 and younger. Pony rides are offered every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults must accompany their children and availability is on a first come, first served basis. Pony rides can also be coordinated for weekdays on an appointment basis as well as for parties or other special events held on site. A covered deck is available for small parties for half-day use for \$50. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

Riders of all experience levels attend lessons

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advanced riders in both English and Western style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified

instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons will be provided if needed. Patrons must be at least seven years old. The price is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$50 for semi-private and \$40 for group lessons. Lessons are available by appointment only most days of the week and in the evenings. Helmets are also available if needed for the lessons. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

JBSA-RANDOLPH PARR CLUB
MURDER MYSTERY
 DINNER THEATER
 AUGUST 27 • 6 P.M.
 ADULTS ONLY
DINNER & SHOW **\$25 PER TICKET**

GEICO MILITARY RBFCU USAA FSS MWR

Fitness

Calling all competitors

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center Aug. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and compete in the Indoor Triathlon. This triathlon is set to push and inspire gym goers of all levels and abilities. The distances have been set so participants can complete the challenge in one visit to the gym. Registration is not required. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

Teams participate in a biathlon

Get a teammate and come to Heritage Park Aug. 7 at 7:30 a.m. for JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center's Two Person Team Biathlon. This is a free event. The first team member must complete the 10-mile bike route in order for the second team member to start running the 5K. For more information, please call 210-652-7263.

Push-ups push contestants to the limit

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to participate in the Two Minute Push-up Challenge. Fitness Center Staff will keep track of time and repetitions. This is a free event, for more information, call 210-671-2401.

Three-point shooting champions are found

The JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center holds a Three Point Shootout Aug. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is not required. The shooters who make the most three pointers from the five designated locations will be our new champions. This event is free and prizes will be awarded to the male and female winners. For more information, call 210-925-4848.

Competition heats up on the court

A three on three basketball tournament is held at the JBSA-Lackland Gilum Fitness Center Aug. 27 at 11 a.m. This is a double elimination tournament open to all DoD ID card holders. Each game will be 15 minutes or up to 12 points. For more information, please contact the Gilum Fitness Center at 210-977-2353.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

JBSA-LACKLAND YOUTH PROGRAMS
 August 13
 4-6 p.m.

For more information, call
 (210) 671-2388

Tournaments are held at the fitness centers

JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center encourages everyone to assemble a team and come out Aug. 27 from 1:30-4 p.m. for a free Volleyball Tournament. Games will be played to 25 points. The winning team will advance to the next round. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. For more information, call 210-671-2401.

Golf

Golfers compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts a two-player individual stroke competition. Held Aug. 21 starting at 12:30 p.m. Men will play white tees (men 65+ can pay gold tees) and women will play red tees. Teams will alternate one best ball, two best ball, one best ball, two best ball for the entire 18 holes. For holes 1-6, golfers

will tee off from the red tees, for holes 7-12, players will tee off from the white tees and for holes 13-18, golfers will tee off from the blue tees. The cost is \$20 per player plus cart and greens fees. The fee includes lunch and prizes. Sign up through the JBSA Golf Clubs App or at <https://manager.gallusgolf.com/Register/25216>. Deadline to sign up is close of business on Aug. 19. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Golfers get fitted for new clubs

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course holds a Golf Demo and Fitting Day with Taylormade Aug. 21. Appointment times are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fitting sessions are in 30-minute appointments. There is no fee for the fitting. Walk in fittings may not be available if all of the fitting times are reserved. To get fitted with the latest golf equipment from Taylormade Golf or for more information, please contact the Pro Shop at 210-671-3466.

Customers looking to get fitted for the latest drivers, fairway woods, irons or wedges can stop by the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course. Offering the latest fitting carts from Callaway, Ping, and Mizuno. All fittings are conducted with Voice Caddie SC300 Launch Monitor. For more information about fittings, call 210-671-3466.

Dark golf is played in the dark

JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course is holding Glow in the Dark Disk Golf Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person and includes a BBQ dinner and the game. The BBQ dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the glow skins game will begin at 7:45 p.m. The course will be set up and available to play at 3 p.m. if you'd like to play a practice round while the sun is up. Register on the JBSA Golf Clubs app or online at <https://manager.gallusgolf.com/Register/25335>. For more information call 210-652-4653.

Diners earn a free meal

JBSA Golf Courses are proud to offer the frequent diner card program. Pick up a frequent diner card at any JBSA Bowling or Golf Course Snack Bar. These cards are good at all JBSA bowling and golf operations. After purchasing 10 combo meals, the 11th is free. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5863, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3466 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4653.

Information Tickets & Travel

Patrons stay up to date on pricing

The JBSA-Information Tickets and Travel offices are proud to introduce their "Travel Talk" series. Held Aug. 10 at 11:30 a.m. Travel Talk will be live streamed via Facebook Live on the Joint Base San Antonio Information Tickets and Travel Facebook page. Tune in and get updates for attractions, pricing, travel deals, get questions answered, concerns addressed, and talk any and everything travel related. For additional information and eligibility rules, call JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378.

Patrons visit amusement parks

All three JBSA-Information Tickets and Travel operations are open and ready to help with all your ticket needs. ITT offers discounted tickets for admission to local attractions, sporting events, SeaWorld®, Six Flags Fiesta Texas®, and much more. They also provide discounted tickets to most local special events throughout the year such as Folk Life and Wurstfest, etc., as well as local Broadway shows. They also offer discount tickets for both Disney and Universal Studios®. Prices are subject to change without notice. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. And is closed on Sunday, Monday and Holidays. For more information, call JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, JBSA-Randolph 830-266-9333, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378.

JBSA
Fort Sam Houston
Golf Course

Cha Cha

Golf Tournament

Aug. 21 • 12:30 p.m.

- \$20 per person plus cart & gree fees, includes lunch & prizes
- 2-player individual stroke competition
- Teams alternate: 1 best ball, 2 best ball
- Register through the JBSA Golf App or by scanning the QR code by COB Aug. 19







Call (210) 222-9986
for more information



Customers take a trip to the amusement park

All JBSA-Information Tickets and Travel locations encourage everyone to check out the latest offer from Universal® Orlando Resort. The new Military Freedom Pass gives military personnel a chance to visit the world-class entertainment destination all year and without blackout dates. The special offer is designed for military members and their families to enjoy two or all three award-winning theme parks, including Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal's Volcano Bay. New Walt Disney World® 2021 pricing is available now and valid through Dec. 17, 2021. There is a strict limit of six tickets per U.S. Active Duty or Retired Member.

Due to stock limitations, we ask that you order tickets 2-3 weeks prior to your travel date. Prices and availability are subject to change without notice. For additional information and eligibility rules, call JBSA-Lackland at

210-671-3059, JBSA-Randolph 830-266-9333, and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378.

Cancun vacation packages offered

JBSA-Lackland Leisure Travel offers a 4-night and 5-day vacation package to Cancun. Package includes all inclusive hotel accommodations, round-trip airfare, travel protection, and airport transfers. Rates start at \$1,200 per person and prices are based on two adults. Full payment and a \$100 service fee is due at booking. Custom quotes are available for parties over two people. For a custom quote or for more information, call 210-671-7111 or email info@jbsatravel.com.

Military & Family Readiness

Savvy planning helps prepare for retirement

Participants review implemented changes to Social Security and how it may affect retirement during the Social Security and You workshop, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon at JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center and Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at JBSA-Lackland M&FRC. To register call JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-5321 or JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3722.

Workshop helps to manage stress

Participants identify causes of stress and learn techniques to effectively cope with every day stressors during the Stress Management workshop, Aug. 4 from 10-11 a.m. To register, call the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-652-5321.

Parents prepare for baby

Active-duty expecting parents receive information on financial planning from conception to college, support programs offered within the community and parenting skills during the Bundles for Babies workshop, Aug. 11, 9-11 a.m. To register, call JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-652-5321.

Participants unlock professional connections

Learn to build a professional profile and maximize networking capabilities during a LinkedIn & Professional Branding workshop, Aug. 17, 1-3 p.m. To register, call the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-671-3722.

Transition assistance now offered for spouses

TAP Too, a workshop specifically designed to help military spouses, is slated for Aug. 24-25 from 8-11 a.m. Learn about popular topics impacting our transitioning population, psychological aspects of transition, changes in financial obligations, and more. Register online at <https://e.afit.edu/H8GVYYqr>

Spouses acclimate to new community

Military spouses new to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community discover local resources, build a strong network and discover their new surroundings during the Newcomers 4 Spouses workshop, Aug. 25 from 1-2 p.m. To register, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-221-2705.

Parents receive helpful toilet training tips

EFMP hosts an Effective Toilet Training workshop

Aug. 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. providing helpful tips to identify signs of readiness and more. Call the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center at 210-671-3722 to register.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed carry classes offered

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), bldg. 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes Aug. 7 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register for the class, students must be 21 years old, unless they are active duty military 18 years or older (DoD ID cardholders only). Students must also meet Federal qualifications to purchase a handgun. Students need to be familiar with their firearm and have prior shooting experience—no first time shooters. Facemasks must be worn during COVID-19. The cost of the class is \$75. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas CHL. To register, go to <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call Mr. Dan Willis at 210-363-2332 or the RNRC at 210-295-7577 or 210-296-7529.

Archery takes on another dimension

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC) 3-D Archery Range consists of a course with 30 life-like animal targets such as bears, black panthers, deer, alligators, etc. The targets are set up between five and 55 yards at unknown distances. Traditional (long bows and recurve bows) and compound bows are allowed but no crossbows. The RNGRC has recurve bows available to rent for \$15 each.

Come out Aug. 28 and 29 for the 3-D Archery Competition. Registration is between 8-10 a.m. The cost is \$10 for E-1 through E-4, active duty or medically retired, and \$20 for participants 13 years of age and older. The Fun Shoot Registration is between 8-11 a.m. The cost is \$5 for E1 through E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 for 13 years of age and older and \$5 for youth 12 and younger. For more information, call 210-295-7577 or 210-295-7529.

Patrons rent all the recreation essentials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, to include camping, water fun, fishing boats, speedboats, sports and party equipment, tables, chairs and bouncy castles. We also have RV campers, mobile grills and portable grills, so come visit us. In addition, equipment rental has a resale car lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation offers a full list of party items for summer fun to include tables, chairs, cotton candy machines, margarita machines, party speakers, champagne fountains and many more items. Come in and take a tour of our equipment and ask our front desk employees for assistance in finding the right equipment.

The JBSA-Randolph Equipment Checkout has tables, chairs, canopies, ice chests, and water jugs that might be needed for those birthday parties, holiday dinners or backyard BBQ. Equipment Checkout also has the extra items needed to make guests' stay more

comfortable. Patrons can rent roll-a-way beds with mattress, aluminum cots, and sleeping bags for great prices. For more information, visit the Community Service Mall, bldg. 895, or call 210-652-5640.

Hunters get ready for a new season

JBSA-Randolph Outdoor Recreation also offers Texas Parks and Wildlife hunting and fishing licenses. Active duty Texas residents and disabled veterans with a 50% or higher disability rating qualify for a free Hunting and Fishing license. Eligible ID and proof of rating required. For more information, call 210-652-5640.

Boaters learn the rules of the water

Summer is here and the weather is perfect for hitting the lakes and we encourage you to take advantage of all the great boating available at the JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake and other surrounding lakes.

All JBSA-Outdoor Recreation locations require a Boaters Safety Course certificate from Texas Parks and Wildlife in order for customers to rent our motorized watercraft over 15HP.

Approved Texas Boaters Safety Courses can be taken online at one of the following websites; <http://www.boaterexam.com>, <http://www.boat-ed.com> or <https://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Texas.asp>.

For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225. JBSA-Lackland at 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533 and JBSA-Randolph can be reached at 210-652-5142.

Youth Programs

Football fundamentals are taught

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Football Academy will assist youth with the basic fundamentals of catching, throwing, passing and kicking drills. Held Aug. 2-6 from 8-11 a.m. Each participant receives an achievement medal. This is a great experience for youth ages 9 and older. The cost \$40 per youth. The academy is limited to 15 participants, so register early. For more information and to sign up, please call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

National root-beer float day is celebrated

Cool off with a cold root-beer float for National Root-Beer Float Day at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Aug. 6 from 5-7 p.m. The drive-thru station will be located in the Youth Programs parking lot. This free event is open to all military families and will be open while supplies last. For more information call Youth Program at 210-671-2388.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs is taking a classic painting activity and giving it an age-appropriate twist on Aug. 6 from 6-8 p.m. Youth, ages 13-18 paint a masterpiece while enjoying an ice cream float. The cost is \$10 for members or \$15 for nonmembers. For more information and to sign up, please call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

Youth cap off the summer with a party

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs (YPI) invites all youth to a free Back to School Carnival Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. Pick up basic school supplies to start the school year right in a carnival atmosphere with games, activities and a talent show. Come early to beat the

heat and find out what School Age Care, Sports and Fitness, Instructional Classes and Open Recreation for pre-teens and teens have to offer for the new 2021-2022 school year. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

Get up to go back to school with one last bash before the school bells ring. Join JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs for a day of fun in the sun Aug. 13 from 4-6 p.m. Enjoy food, games, prizes and more. This free event will take place in the backyard of Youth Programs and is open to all military families. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

Come hang out with JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs and cap off the summer to bring in a new school year. Back to School Bash is held Aug. 14 from 1-4 p.m. There will be food, entertainment, giveaways and activities. For more information, please call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

Teens are thrown a party Aug. 27 from 6-9 p.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch/Chaffee Youth Programs (YP2). Featuring free food, games, activities and door prizes for active teen members that attend. For more information, call 210-221-3630.

Tempting sweet treats are enjoyed

Celebrate National S'mores Day Aug. 10 at 4:30 p.m. at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs (YPI). Come on over to toast marshmallows, smash them together with chocolate and graham crackers to make a yummy treat. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

Parents get a much needed break

JBSA-Youth Programs can give parents that much needed break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents Night Out programs. The cost is \$25 per child with a sibling discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. The last day to register is the Wednesday prior to the event.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston holds Parents Night Out Aug. 14 from 6-10 p.m. JBSA-Lackland hosts Give Parents a Break on Aug. 13 from 6-10 p.m. JBSA-Randolph on Aug. 14 from 1-5 p.m. To register or for more information, call 210-221-5002 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. For JBSA-Lackland call 210-671-2388. For JBSA-Randolph call 210-652-4946.

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Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<https://jbsatoday.com>



New IMCOM leaders step up to serve global enterprise

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With a global footprint encompassing 97 installations, 55,000 professionals and an \$11 billion annual budget, the U.S. Army Installation Management Command touches every Soldier's life each day.

In ways big and small, IMCOM helps them all, from assisting new parents who need child care to supporting a newly bereaved spouse.

The command's motto, "We are the Army's home," rings true during this season of rotating assignments, with some IMCOM leaders leaving to retire

and others arriving to begin new opportunities.

Lt. Gen. Doug Gabram, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, said the turnover in general officers and senior executive service officers continues the command's objectives of empowered and engaged leaders.

"IMCOM professionals interact daily with Soldiers and Families, a civilian workforce, Army leaders,

Congress and the American people to keep at the forefront the Army's



COURTESY IMAGES

number one priority, its people," Gabram said. "Within the structure of the IMCOM service culture, our newest leaders join our existing team, serving each individual with the highest standards of professionalism, dignity and respect."

The service culture pledge states the employee's commitment to providing programs and services delivered with a sense of individual pride, professionalism and in keeping with the spirit of Army values and IMCOM principles.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen.
Omar J. Jones IV

Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones IV

The new IMCOM deputy commanding general is Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones IV, who previously served as commanding general of the Military District of Washington/Commander, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region, Washington, D.C.

Jones also served as Chief of Public Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army, and was a deputy commanding general (operations) for the 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He served in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Germany, Iraq and Kuwait, and has been based at Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas and Fort Hood.

Col. Jonathan Doyle

The new IMCOM Provost Marshal/Protection Director is Col. Jonathan Doyle, who arrived in San Antonio from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where he was the I Corps G35 (Future Operations) and later I Corps Protection Director/Provost Marshal. He has served at Fort Drum, Fort Knox and Fort Leavenworth and at



Col. Jonathan Doyle



Col. Andrew J. Hyatt

Carlisle Barracks, as well as Afghanistan, Egypt, Germany, Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

Col. Andrew Hyatt

Col. Andrew Hyatt directs IMCOM G8, overseeing appropriated funds budgeting and resource management. With experience and education as a comptroller, he has served in a number of positions and locations, such as the Army Budget Office, HQDA, Forts Bragg and Lewis, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Hyatt also served in Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq and Kuwait.

Sylana Tramble

Sylana Tramble was selected as Director of Human Resources/G1 for IMCOM, where she directs the command's internal human resources programs. Throughout her 22-year career in the Department of Defense as a civil servant, Tramble has held a variety of positions. She also worked for the Internal Revenue Service as the executive director of employment, talent and security in the Human Capital Office.



Sylana Tramble

Brig. Gen. Omuso George retires as IMCOM G8 Director

By Brittany Nelson

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Omuso George's 30 years of service in the U.S. Army were celebrated at his retirement ceremony July 16 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater. "The Army is about people, and from the beginning, 'Mus' was the kind of leader who made the people around him better," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

George retired as IMCOM's G8 director, where he managed an \$11 billion annual budget.

"This command does more to support quality of life, readiness, and families more than any other organization in the Army," George said.

George started his Army career when he was commissioned in 1991 after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. A handful of his classmates attended his retirement ceremony.

"The first thing I noticed is 'Mus' is not afraid of big numbers," Gabram said. "He doesn't get rattled when money is 'swept' by our higher HQ or

identified for things outside of his plan. Rather, he deftly applies leadership to his G8 team of really smart people."

George's career includes a variety of key staff assignments across many commands, including tours in Texas, Kansas, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, the Pentagon and New York City. He also served in Afghanistan, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait and South Korea.

"Today is bittersweet," said George, a native of Hempstead, New York. "I've reflected on so many memories over the past few weeks and I have lived two lifetimes in the course of my career."

He served as director of operations and support in the Army Budget Office, overseeing \$106 billion of the Army's largest appropriations; executive officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for financial management; III Corps G8 director, and the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Commander, New York City.

George had many family members, friends and coworkers in attendance, both in person and virtually, to help celebrate his impressive career.

He received a handful of awards during the ceremony, including IMCOM's Stalwart award and the retirement of his flag.

George and his wife, Monica, who



Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram (left), commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, congratulates Brig. Gen. Omuso George (right) for 30 years of service at his retirement ceremony July 16 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Theater.

NEAL SNYDER

has served as a DOD employee for more than 24 years, are moving to Maryland to enjoy his retirement and begin this next phase of life.

"Hundreds of thousands of Soldiers

and civilians have enriched Monica's and my life, and my heart is full," George said. "I will continue to try to pay it forward. I will always be a Soldier for life."



COURTESY PHOTO

COMMANDING GENERALS FROM U.S. ARMY SOUTH, COLOMBIAN ARMY MEET IN BOGOTÁ

Brig. Gen. William L. Thigpen (left), U.S. Army South commanding general, meets Gral. Eduardo Enrique Zapateiro Altamiranda (right), Colombian National Army commanding general, July 21 in Bogotá, Colombia. Thigpen recently took command of U.S. Army South in late June. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen relations between the countries, exchange knowledge and enhance security cooperation. The Colombian Army is a top strategic partner in Latin America, and the U.S. and Colombian armies have worked together for many years. U.S. Army South seeks to advance the partnership with the Colombian Army beyond the high level of cooperation already established.

LACKLAND

Air Force BMT graduation reopens to public

By Jason Wilkinson

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After 16 months without families being able to attend Air Force Basic Military Training graduations at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, more than 1,200 guests viewed the ceremony July 22, with many shedding tears of joy at finally seeing their Airmen recite the oath of enlistment in person.

This limited number of family members was allowed at the graduation of their Airmen from Basic Military Training for the first time since the Air Force suspended guest attendance completely in March 2020. Typically, the graduation ceremony has 3,000 to 4,000 people in attendance.

Jessica Flores was in a special place to appreciate the difference in being able to attend in person versus the virtual ceremony. She watched a cousin graduate from BMT about six weeks ago and was in attendance July 22 to watch Airman Basic Eduardo Tamayo graduate.

While she appreciates the need for safety precautions, she was very excited to attend in person.

"Being in person is more emotional," Jessica said. "The music, the people, and being able to see the actual faces — there is nothing quite like it."

Graduates also had the opportunity to spend time with their guests following the ceremony, provided they earned liberty during BMT.

"We truly understand the personal value and meaning attending graduation events in person has to our trainees' families," said Col. Rockie K



PHOTOS BY JASON WILKINSON

Although the training program has undergone significant changes since March 2020, these adaptations have allowed the 37th Training Wing to continue to meet the needs of the Air Force. Current projections predict 34,000 new Airmen will enter the Air Force this fiscal year.

Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander. "While our ceremony looks different, we want families to experience the culmination of building the next generation of Airman and Guardians, and to share that experience with others so we can continue to inspire and recruit young men and women to join our ranks."

In the 16 months since the COVID-19 pandemic began, BMT has undergone the largest transformation in its history to include providing voluntary vaccination for trainees and developing a new parade ceremony for the BMT graduation.

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For BMT, safety is the top priority, and visitors are required to provide proof of vaccination in order to attend the ceremony. JBSA-Lackland is the single point of entry for the Air Force and Space Force enlisted, and the protection of this pipeline is essential.

BMT graduations are scheduled every Thursday. Information on graduation requirements can be found at <http://www.basictraining.af.mil>.

Ready EAGLE exercise helps 59th Medical Wing ensure readiness

By Airman 1st Class
Melody Bordeaux
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 59th Medical Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is constantly working to ensure readiness is at the forefront of its daily operations.

Wing members recently completed a week of the Ready EAGLE exercise to test readiness capabilities and hone processes to ensure it is able to respond efficiently to any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive or mass casualty events.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Philip Seisman, Navy Medical Training Instructor Office hospital corpsman, directs Airmen and Sailors, who simulated as patients, during the Ready EAGLE exercise at the Blood Donor Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 15.



A group of Airmen triage simulated patients.



Airmen wash down a simulated patient in a decontamination tent.



Simulated patients lie on litters before decontamination during the Ready EAGLE exercise capstone at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 16. A decontamination tent is set up to wash down patients during a biochemical incident.



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington (left), 4th Air Force commander, fist bumps Airman 1st Class John Scheurer, a C-5M Super Galaxy Formal Training Unit student, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 7.

4th Air Force commander visits Alamo Wing

By Senior Airman Brittany Wich
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, visited the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 7.

The main purpose of the visit was to discuss improvements to the C-5M Super Galaxy Formal Training Unit. Pennington said the C-5M FTU is an essential part of the 433rd AW's mission which is vital in the Rapid Global Mobility Mission.

During the visit, Pennington met with maintenance, operations and FTU cadre leadership.

"We spent time deep-diving into the process improvement countermeasures to help build 'FTU Next,'" Pennington said. "The wing's efforts are being synchronized with those of Air Education and Training Command and the Air Mobility Command to build production capabilities meeting today's demand with innovative approaches such as virtual reality training, updating training devices and

empowering students with on-demand video and tools to accelerate learning."

Lt. Col. Jonathan Behunin, 433rd Operations Support Squadron commander, was among the leaders and said modernizing the curriculum has been the focus to expand learning aides and resources to the students, giving more productive learning opportunities.

"I think there was a tremendous amount of benefit in us being able to share our perspective with Maj. Gen. Pennington, and him giving us the guidance on how to improve our talking points and our advocacy for those," Behunin said.

Pennington also toured the C-5M training unit dorms and meet with military training leaders to discuss scheduled upgrades for the aircrew (pilot, flight engineer and loadmaster) students.

"I am being continually impressed with the professional and teamwork between operations and maintenance, and between the schoolhouse staff and students," Pennington said.

RANDOLPH

AF Career Development Academy transforms CDC content, delivery to Airmen

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With a charter to help advance force development and transform how Airmen learn, the Air Force Career Development Academy at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, has reimaged the service's career development course design and delivery model to bring it into the 21st-century learning environment.

Using an approach to modernization centered on rapid curriculum development and agile curriculum updates, with an emphasis on tasks that are mission-focused, the effort ties to the people-first approach of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr.'s Action Order-A (Airmen) and directly contributes to developing Airmen to ensure they are ready for the future fight.

"We want every Airman trained within a modern, learner-centric model that befits their experience and education right when they walk in the door, as well as throughout their careers," said Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos, Second Air Force commander. "The CDC modernization program is another great example of how we are accelerating change by investing in learning options that allow Airmen to learn in the connected way they're already familiar with in today's world."

The legacy CDCs used textbook-style delivery with between 100 and 600 pages of reading, evaluated with



DAN HAWKINS

multiple-choice assessments. The more modernized process includes the use of interactive, student-centric instruction with a focus on performance-based assessments and realistic scenarios.

"It's no secret our CDC systems, processes, and courseware needed to be modernized because the program wasn't meeting the needs of today's Airmen or the career fields," said Lindsey Fredman, Air Force Career Development Academy director. "Our new approach, which will be housed in myLearning, is now more mission-focused, Airmen-centric and competency-based than ever before."

The CDC modernization process is done in four stages: analysis and discovery; design

and prototyping; beta testing and implementation; and followed by evaluation.

Under the old model, the analysis and discovery process to develop or update a CDC could take two to three years depending on the number of tasks involved.

"Using rapid curriculum development, updates for an entire modernized course can take as little as a month or two," Fredman said. "Moving forward in design, we now use CDC writers to provide subject matter expertise on their career field's tasks, and provide that information immediately to the instructional designers, speeding up the process to develop and implement robust, effective courseware."

Another new aspect in CDC design is the introduction of interactive content, which

allows students to pace themselves through realistic training scenarios and performance-based assessments.

"Whereas before CDCs were simply words on paper, we have brought interactive training to the curriculum," Fredman said. "For example, in the helicopter maintenance course, we are integrating interactive 3D engine models to identify components and even replicate malfunctions so an Airman has to diagnose and solve a realistic scenario that could happen out in the field during the training."

Another example is in the missile and space systems electronic maintenance career field CDCs, which are currently undergoing modernization.

"We've been working with AFCDA since March to

modernize the 2MoX1A 5-level CDCs into a fully interactive online course," said Master Sgt. Peter Pleasanton, a 532nd Training Squadron flight chief based at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, and the 2MoX1A CDC author. "We are developing content in Adobe Captivate and will be using myLearning."

Another example is the 2T3X1 Air Force specialty code, which is the mission generation vehicular equipment maintenance career field.

"We really appreciate the guidance and IT support from AFCDA as we bring our CDC delivery method to an electronic platform that has interactive capabilities versus 14 volumes," said Master Sgt. Arun Sebastian, assigned to the 344th Training Squadron at Naval Base Ventura County-Port Hueneme, California, and author for the 2T3X1 CDCs. "With our career field being extremely hands-on oriented, the interactive capabilities modernizes and expands the learning environment."

From an agility perspective, the focus on task analysis specifically means courses can be updated much closer to real-time thanks to the use of proven AFNET-approved software.

"Considering the CDCs have been predominantly PDF text booklets for the last couple of decades, the career field is excited to have this opportunity to modernize the course," Pleasanton said, adding the target for completion of the 2MoX1A

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Innovators connect on AETC Innovation Dashboard

By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The AETC Innovation Dashboard is the one-stop-shop for anyone interested in the innovation activities happening across the command.

It provides a dynamic visualization of more than 550 innovation projects across Air University, Air Force Recruiting Service, 2nd Air Force, 19th Air Force, 59th Medical Wing and 502nd Air Base Wing, as well as collaborations with academia and industry.

The platform is a user-friendly display of innovation efforts visualized through dynamic charts and tables.

By providing a single starting point to learn about AETC innovators and innovations, the Innovation Dashboard is a data-rich tool that allows Airmen to analyze the resources they need to better understand who is innovating, what they're innovating, and to identify lessons learned and potential partners who can work together to turn their concepts and ideas into innovations that improve the way we accomplish our missions.

For more information about the AETC Innovation Dashboard, visit <https://data.studio.google.com/reporting/bceedd7c-7abf>.

Certain Special Warfare SNCOs eligible for retention bonus

By Toni Whaley
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of the Air Force will offer Selective Retention Bonuses, or SRBs, to a wider population of eligible Special Warfare senior noncommissioned officers, if they agree to continue serving for a minimum of three years.

As an exception to policy, the Air Force is offering this SRB to Pararescue (1Z1XX), Combat Control (1Z2XX), Tactical Air Control Party (1Z3XX) and Special Reconnaissance (1Z4XX) SNCOs who have completed more than 20 but less than 25 years of active duty, and are otherwise qualified.

The high OPSTEMPO and combat intensity experienced by these Air Force Specialty

Codes, or AFSCs, makes it difficult to stabilize SNCO manning at sustainable levels. The experience SNCOs provide is key to executing the Air Force mission and ensuring highly trained and qualified Special Warfare Airmen for the future.

The bonus amount for a three-year service agreement is \$50,000. The amount for four years is \$75,000 and a five-year service agreement is \$125,000.

"The SRB program is a monetary incentive paid to active duty Airmen serving in certain selected military skills who reenlist for additional obligated service," said Michael McLaughlin, Reenlistment Policy and Procedures administrator. "The bonus is intended to encourage the retention of enlisted personnel in military

skills with either demonstrated retention shortfalls or high training costs."

Under this new authority, master sergeants and senior master sergeants accepting this bonus with 20-plus years of service may also be eligible for a High Year of Tenure adjustment up to 25 or 27 years of service, respectively.

Eligible Airmen may execute this bonus agreement anytime during their enlistment, provided they are not currently receiving a bonus.

This bonus is effective July 22, 2021 and retroactive payments are not authorized.

For more information regarding the SRB program, visit the myPers website or contact your local Military Personnel Flight, Career Development section.

CAREER

From page 21

CDC modernization is in the fall of 2021.

The focus on tasks in the new process also meant the removal of information Airmen didn't necessarily need in the context of the CDC itself.

"In every instance, we are really taking hard looks at the 'fluff' in terms of content and where it can be cut down," Fredman said. "One of the biggest things we learned was

Airmen in the field felt there was too much content that didn't tie directly to a task, or it wasn't mission-focused."

Understanding that some of that extra information might prove useful to Airmen outside their CDCs, the AFCDA now provides career fields proposed training plans that bridge knowledge gaps from the CDCs to tasks normally performed on the job, Fredman said.

As part of the modernization process, AFCDA is collaborating with certain career fields, such as

logistics readiness, civil engineering and dental, to assist with the modernization process, Fredman said.

"We are working together to develop the 2T3 CDC's which is one of the biggest changes our career field has seen in the realm of upgrade training," Sebastian said. "Our career field manager is excited to see the product improve upgrade training across the enterprise."

Using an AFCDA liaison to ensure the process is standardized, the liaison can guide a career field as they

take on task analysis and even course design to further speed up the modernization process.

"We really appreciate the guidance and IT support from AFCDA as we bring our CDC delivery method to an electronic platform that has interactive capabilities versus 14 volumes," Sebastian said. "With our career field being extremely hands-on oriented, the interactive capabilities modernizes and expands the learning environment."

"For instance, the medical career fields have instructional designers and

many are using our CDC model to help them modernize," Fredman said. "Career field managers are helping by leveraging resources they have to help speed up the timeline by helping us build courses."

After the collaborative courses are built, AFCDA takes ownership of any updates, student management, coursework validation, and end-of-course surveys. Career field managers will also have access to data that will provide information on how individual career fields are performing.