

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

AUGUST 13, 2021



U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division medics and a Colombian army combat medic conduct medical evacuation rehearsals in preparation for a combined airborne exercise July 24 at Tolemaida Air Base, Colombia.

PFC. JOSHUA TAECKENS

Army South develops medical evacuation rehearsals with Colombian combat medics

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HH-60G Pave Hawk makes debut at 344th TS

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Infectious disease doctor takes command of BAMC

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SAPD, Army CID seek help with Army NCO's unsolved murder

San Antonio Police Department Public Information Office

The San Antonio Police Department's Homicide Unit and the Army's Criminal Investigations Division at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston are asking for the public's help in identifying a vehicle possibly connected to the Jan. 1, 2021, murder of Army Staff Sgt. Jessica Ann Mitchell.

The vehicle, believed to be a red SUV, was seen driving behind Mitchell's vehicle northeast on Wurzbach Road around 2:08 a.m. Jan. 1. Through their investigation, detectives discovered red paint on Mitchell's white Dodge Charger.

On Friday, Jan. 1, Mitchell was celebrating New Year's Eve with friends at the 4th Quarter Sports Bar located at 8779 Wurzbach. Sometime after 2 a.m., Mitchell left the bar in her 2019 white Dodge Charger alone.

She was traveling eastbound on IH-10 and just passed the Vance Jackson exit when the SAPD believes someone in a red vehicle opened fire and struck the driver side of her vehicle. Mitchell may have swerved into the red vehicle causing minor damage and paint transfer.

Mitchell was shot several times. She was transported to the hospital, where she passed away at approximately 3:21 a.m.

SAPD homicide detectives are asking for the public's help in identifying the red vehicle captured on surveillance video.

There is a \$30,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect in Mitchell's murder. People can remain anonymous. Anyone with any information on this vehicle or the case are urged to call Crime Stoppers at 210-224-STOP, reference case SAPD 21-000072.

Editor's note: The video clip of the vehicle has been posted to SAPD's social media platforms on Facebook at @SanAntonioPD, on Twitter at @SATXPolice, and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/SAPDMSVC.



U.S. Army CID Offers a Reward up to \$25,000



The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is seeking the public's help and offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Joint Base San Antonio Soldier, SSG Jessica Ann Mitchell. Army CID and the San Antonio Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying a vehicle possibly connected to the murder. The vehicle, believed to be a Red SUV, was seen traveling behind SSG Mitchell's vehicle northeast on Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, TX shortly after 0208, 1 Jan 21. SSG Mitchell was shot to death in her vehicle on Interstate 10 near Vance Jackson Road, San Antonio, TX, about 0215, 1 Jan 21. Red paint transfer was discovered on SSG Mitchell's White Dodge Charger. The Red vehicle may have received minor damage and white paint transfer.

Please visit Facebook (@SanAntonioPD), Twitter (@SATXPolice) and YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/SAPDMSVC) for more information/video.

**ANY PERSON HAVING INFORMATION REGARDING THIS INCIDENT SHOULD CONTACT THE
FORT SAM HOUSTON CID OFFICE AT COM: (210) 221-2136 OR AT
[HTTPS://WWW.CID.ARMY.MIL/REPORT-A-CRIME.HTML](https://www.cid.army.mil/report-a-crime.html).**

THE PAYOUT OF CASH REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSON(S) INVOLVED IS CONTINGENT UPON THE ACCURACY AND VALUE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, AND THE ACTIONS TAKEN BASED UPON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. MILITARY AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ARE TYPICALLY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REWARDS UNLESS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM, AND DID NOT INTERFERE WITH, THEIR ASSIGNED DUTIES.

**YOUR NAME CAN REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. PERSONS WISHING TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
WILL BE HONORED TO THE DEGREE ALLOWABLE UNDER THE LAW AND THE
INFORMATION WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE ALLOWABLE. PERSONS
CAN ALSO ANONYMOUSLY SUBMIT INFORMATION AT
[HTTPS://WWW.CID.ARMY.MIL/REPORT-A-CRIME.HTML](https://www.cid.army.mil/report-a-crime.html).**

LER : 0006-2021-CID044-000002

Expires: 12 January 2022

COURTESY GRAPHIC

The San Antonio Police Department's Homicide Unit and the Army's Criminal Investigations Division is asking for the public's help in identifying a vehicle possibly connected to the Jan. 1, 2021, murder of Army Staff Sgt. Jessica Ann Mitchell.

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: With much touting of the Tenant Bill of Rights, one thing has never been discussed. What are the penalties or consequences when housing companies violate the terms?

A: The Air Force is committed to ensuring that all military tenants and their families living in Air Force privatized housing are provided all rights reflected in the Tenant Bill of Rights signed by the Secretary of Defense and all service secretaries in February 2020.

With respect to 15 of the 18 rights, the Air Force entered into agreements with nearly all project owners that committed them to make those rights available as of May 1, 2020, with the exception of the Universal Lease, part of the right to common documents.

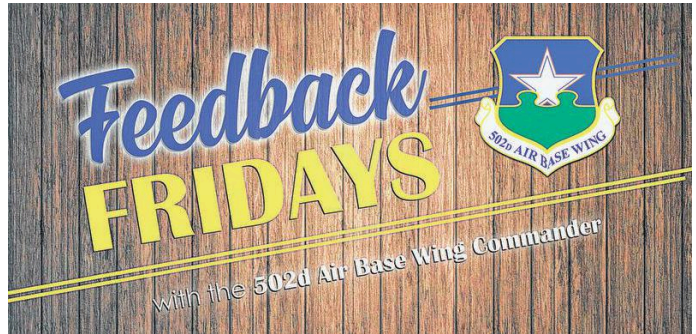
With respect to the remaining rights — Universal Lease, dispute resolution, maintenance history and rent segregation — the Air Force has been working diligently with project owners to finalize the details of how those rights will be implemented in accordance with guidance provided by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

If you believe a project owner is not making certain rights available to tenants, we urge you to report your concerns through your local housing office, who can then work directly with your base leadership and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center to investigate your concerns further.

► JBSA-Randolph Housing Office:
210-652-1840

► JBSA-Lackland Housing Office:
210-671-3472

► JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Housing Office: 210-295-8539



COURTESY GRAPHIC

If an issue exists, AFCEC will engage directly with project owners to develop a plan that will resolve any Tenant Bill of Rights issues that were identified and ensure full compliance with existing agreements.

Q: I have direct evidence that a recently released maintenance history given to a potential tenant omitted serious maintenance issues the house experienced. What good is a maintenance history if it has been altered to not include everything that occurred? Misleading? Yes. Fraudulent? Yes.

A: The maintenance history requirement is one of the three

remaining rights in the Tenant Bill of Rights that has not been formally agreed to by any project owner in the Air Force.

Maintenance history is currently available at 61 of 68 locations, with three additional locations working to implement.

Project owners are still working to determine how best to comply with the maintenance history requirements that are reflected in 10 U.S.C. 2892a, but there is not a consistent approach that is currently being followed.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure the maintenance history requirement is implemented in a smart way so that tenants can make a fully informed decision prior to signing a lease for a housing unit with a project owner.

Department of the Air Force begins integrated personnel, pay system modernization

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Uniformed Total Force Airmen and Guardians are invited to create Air Force Integrated Personnel and Pay System accounts as part of a two-phase personnel and pay modernization program.

AFIPPS will combine the functions currently managed through the Military Personnel Data System and the Defense Joint Military Pay System into a single, automated solution with improved self-service capabilities.

"AFIPPS is transformational towards providing better, faster and more accurate services for our Airmen and Guardians," said Greg Parsons, Air Force A1 plans and integration

director. "Service members' personnel and pay records will be integrated into one system making personnel and pay updates easier and less cumbersome, which is fundamental to taking care of our people."

Examples of improvements that will be accomplished through AFIPPS include transferring paper-based pay actions, such as advance pay requests, to fully automated functions.

Similarly, Guardsmen and Reservists will be able to manage personal leave more efficiently through an entirely electronic process. Additionally, AFIPPS will enable the viewing of records for personnel and pay functions, such as dependent status and basic allowance for housing.

Guard and Reserve Airmen and Guardians began receiving login instructions in late July, while active duty Airmen and Guardians will receive login instructions in waves throughout the remainder of 2021.

During phase one, users will receive a MyPers notification with detailed instructions on accessing the system for the first time and how to verify personal information. The message will include a timeframe for completing login actions and the corrective steps to take if errors are identified.

"While AFIPPS will not be the pay and personnel system of record until phase two, it is important for Airmen and Guardians to verify and update, if required, their personal information

in anticipation of AFIPPS becoming fully operational in 2022," said Col. Brian Hinsvark, chief of the AFIPPS functional management office. "Activating the account and verifying personal information will help our Airmen and Guardians prepare to use the new system and benefit from its vast improvements when its full capability is realized."

Phase two is scheduled to occur in 2022 when AFIPPS becomes fully functional and required for all Total Force Airmen and Guardians. Service members will continue to receive updates as each phase progresses.

For additional information, visit the AFIPPS Portal page or AFIPPS page on the Air Force's Personnel Center website for the latest communications.

Website informs civilians about DOD opportunities

By Jim Garamone DOD News

Say “Department of Defense” and most Americans automatically envision uniformed Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen or Space Force Guardians.

They don’t think of the sinews holding all this together: DOD civilians.

“One of the things that I find so fascinating is that the Department of Defense civilian workforce ... is close to 950,000, and still people don’t seem to know about it,” said Michelle LoweSolis, the director of Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service. “We’re really and truly one of the biggest civilian employers

in the country.”

Your average citizen doesn’t realize that you can come into the Defense Department and not wear a uniform, she said.

Pentagon officials have built a website — www.dodciviliancareers.com — to correct this misperception. The website project’s team lead said the site is primarily a recruitment tool; the website’s purposes were to educate folks about civilian employment and help them explore where they might find their fit within the organization.

The idea began about two years ago, said Desiree

Seifert, associate director for employment integration and strategic recruitment, at the service.

“We knew we needed to be more active in social media,” she said. “We knew we needed to have more of a way of communicating. We really wanted to look at our website as kind of the central hub of that messaging.”

The organization had a website before, but it wasn’t dynamic, Seifert said.

“It didn’t let people know who we are or the variety of positions that we have,” she said. “It didn’t specifically target certain groups to say, ‘Hey, come on in and learn about us; here’s why it would

be interesting to you.”

The site is designed to give those working with it different paths to explore. If someone knows they want to work for the Army, for example, the site will give them a pathway there. If they want to work in South Korea, it will show them opportunities there.

“If the person is not sure, we have avenues where they can look at our different careers,” said the website project’s team lead. There’s also a job exploration tool that allows people to answer a few basic questions about their interests and background and get some tips on where they might

start looking. “The site can show them opportunities already aligned with their backgrounds.”

There are more than 600 civilian occupations in the DOD. There are all kinds of careers from scientists and engineers to artists to human resource personnel to intelligence analysts to medical professionals. “If you want to fix aircraft, you can do it,” Seifert said.

“If you want to build ships, have an it. If you know talented individuals who want to make a powerful impact as DOD civilians, then www.dodciviliancareers.com is an excellent place to begin.”

Wanted: Innovative ideas for Spark Tank 2022

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Spark Tank 2022, a Department of the Air Force annual competition in which Airmen and Guardians pitch innovative solutions to operational problems, will begin accepting submissions soon.

Spark Tank is co-sponsored by the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Management (SAF/MG) and AFWERX.

“Spark Tank is a crucial part of the Air Force’s relentless search for innovative technology,” said Col. Nathan Diller, AFWERX director. “The operational skills and knowledge our Airmen and Guardians possess gives them the expertise not only to identify problems unique to their jobs but also solutions.”

This is the fifth year of the Spark Tank competition. Spark Tank 2021 drew more than 300 submissions with five finalists. Master Sgt. Justin Bauer from the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, was awarded the Spark Tank trophy for his idea, “Innovative Approach to C-130 Wheel Repair.” Previous winners and finalists have



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Master Sgt. Justin Bauer from the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, was awarded the Spark Tank 2021 trophy for his idea, “Innovative Approach to C-130 Wheel Repair.” Spark Tank 2022, a Department of the Air Force annual competition in which Airmen and Guardians pitch innovative solutions to operational problems, will accept submissions in early August 2021.

offered improvements from smart weapons loading checklists to robotic process automation for personnel records and everything in-between.

As a bonus, SAF/MG and AFWERX are introducing Spark

Tank innovation awards to recognize innovative solutions proposed and developed by Airmen and Guardians across the enterprise. The awards are designed to encourage innovation development, talent retention, and speed up adopting emerging,

game-changing technologies that impact the Air and Space Force.

“Spark Tank offers a great opportunity to highlight the innovative spirit of our Airmen and Guardians,” said William Gautier, Spark Tank director. “These risk-takers, idea makers, and entrepreneurs reject the status quo, and instead they seek inventive answers that improve how our jobs are done.”

To enable participation, interested members will submit ideas through the recently launched Guardian and Airmen Innovation Network portal. GAIN allows personnel to share ideas, critique submissions, and vote on the most promising solutions.

Innovation submissions are due via GAIN no later than the close of business, Oct. 1, 2021. Finalists will be announced in January 2022. The pitch-finals competition will take place on March 4, 2022, at the Air Force Association’s Aerospace Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida.

More information will be forthcoming at <https://www.afwerx.af.mil/spark-tank.html>. Ideas can be submitted to the Spark Tank competition at afwerx.af.mil.

Learn the do's, don'ts of flushing

By Richard L. Hopewell

802ND CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON
WATER QUALITY LEAD

Editor's note: Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph falls under the Cibola Creek Municipal Authority, or CMA, not SAWS.

San Antonio Water System, or SAWS, sewers are not designed as trash disposal units.

Sewers are designed to take away wastewater from sinks and baths, as well as toilet paper and human waste flushed down the toilet. But hundreds of people cause blockages in sewers by putting trash down the toilet.

And just because an item is called disposable doesn't mean it is safe to flush. Instead, you should bag it and put it in the garbage ... don't flush it!

Our sewers are not designed to cope with modern disposable products. These items can cause blockages.

The drains connecting your home (or place of work) to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste. They are often no wider than four inches. Around 75 percent of blockages involve disposable items.

To avoid drain pain and a drain on resources, remember to bag it and put it in the garbage ... don't flush it!

Disposable products, such as cotton balls, condoms, diapers, and plastics can find their way into the environment if they are flushed down the drain.

To prevent damage to the environment, the following items should be disposed of in the ways recommended:

- » For cotton balls, feminine products, bandages, diapers, plastics and dental floss, dispose of these in the garbage along with other household trash.
- » For condoms, tampons and applicators, wrap well and dispose of in the trash.

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for the 502nd Civil Engineering Group, CCMA and SAWS. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking. It comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces and dairy products.

When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of the pipes that connect your home or place of work to the sewer lines that convey waste to the local sewage treatment facility.

Eventually, the grease can build up until it completely blocks sewer pipes. That can create difficult and expensive maintenance problems. Blocked sewer pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or place of work, or overflow into streets and streams.

Garbage disposals don't keep grease out of sewer pipes. Products that claim to dissolve grease may dislodge a blockage, but will only cause problems farther on down the line when the grease hardens again.

Reducing the amount of fats, oils and greases, or FOG, going down your kitchen sink prevents sewer problems.

Following the following tips helps avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and resources to cover sewer maintenance and repairs, while helping protect water quality in your community:

- » Do recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash.
- » Do scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- » Do wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then throw away the paper towels.
- » Do place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishware or when peeling or trimming food to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.
- » Do rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the FOG off the dishes and into the sewer pipes. When these go into the sewer, the hot water will cool and the FOG will clog the pipes.
- » Don't use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines. Don't put food of any kind down the drain.
- » Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings or sauces down the sink or toilet or into street gutters or storm drains.
- » Don't use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.
- » Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

MEDCoE hosts first large-scale, outdoor open graduation

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army Medicine soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, graduated from Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, as fully qualified 68W Combat Medics Aug. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The 68W Combat Medics, the second-largest Military Occupational Specialty, or MOS, in the U.S. Army, have been at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for 16 weeks of medic training, immediately following their Basic Combat Training. To graduate, the soldier medics underwent difficult training assessing their proficiency in both emergency medical treatment and combat trauma care, culminating in an eight-day field exercise to test those skills under simulated combat conditions.

With more than 200 soldiers graduating in formation on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's main post parade field, nearly 250 friends and family able to attend in person, and another 300 watching virtually, the Aug. 3 graduation was a milestone: the first large-scale, outdoor open graduation hosted by the command since the 2019 Coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic began.

Up until a few weeks ago, it was uncertain if these medics would get the honor of marking their achievement with a formal ceremony in front of their loved ones. During the early days of the pandemic on March 13, 2020, Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general, suspended all public graduations to help limit community spread of the virus and protect the training pipeline

of the Army's medical soldiers.

LeMaster says he is proud, not only of MEDCoE leaders and planners who helped set the conditions to enable in-person graduations, but he is also proud of the hundreds of soldiers and their families who have supported, and adhered to, the necessary protective measures that are in place.

"Once we got the conditions right it was a pretty easy decision," LeMaster said of his decision to allow the graduations for now. "We had to make sure all of the right protocols were in place and that soldiers and their families were committed to following those protocols."

The general said conditions can change rapidly due to COVID variants so leaders will continue to assess whether open graduations are feasible on a daily basis. He explained that such diligence is required to ensure soldier readiness and providing MEDCoE soldiers high-quality training, despite the added challenges of COVID-19, in order to transition as expeditiously as possible to operational units where they are needed most.

The MEDCoE is the Army's largest civilian-accredited service school and trains more than 35,000 students annually through 192 health-related programs of instruction at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. The school's trainees represent 94 officer medical areas of concentration and 24 enlisted medical specialties: everyone from doctors, nurses and respiratory specialists to patient administration, dental assistants and veterinary specialists, though combat medics are the largest medical specialty trained at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

In July 2021, LeMaster



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

More than 200 Army Medicine soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, graduated from Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, as fully qualified 68W Combat Medics Aug. 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

authorized a tentative return to public graduations with COVID-19 mitigation measures in place to include proof of vaccination status and masks for all guests. Those unable to verify vaccination status could also provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of graduation. Since then, there have been a few smaller graduations, mostly conducted indoors without many family members present.

LeMaster explained the significance of being able to hold the large, outdoor event safely using COVID-19 mitigation measures. "I do consider this a milestone," LeMaster said. "It's a chance for families to come together and see their graduates in all of the pomp and circumstance that a graduation has. This is a pretty big deal, for not only the soldiers as a milestone in their life but also for the families as well."

The graduation included

honors to the nation played by "Fort Sam's Own," the 323d Army Band, special guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Christopher Felchle, Chief Medical Noncommissioned Officer, Capability Development Integration Directorate, U.S. Army Futures Command, presentation of awards such as Drill Sergeant of the Cycle, the Dean's list and honor graduate, followed by graduating soldiers reciting the Soldier's Creed. The nearly 35-minute ceremony ended with the playing of the Army Song.

In addition to families, friends and LeMaster, other distinguished guests included Command Sgt. Major Clark J. Charpentier, MEDCoE Command Sergeant Major, and Col. Wesley Anderson, 32nd Medical Brigade Commander.

Immediately following graduation, many of the guests, who were required to wear masks and demonstrate proof of vaccination, got to visit with

their soldiers on post. LeMaster paused off-post passes on July 30 when JBSA increased the health protection condition (HPCON) from HPCON Bravo to HPCON Bravo Plus due, in part, to increased infections believed to be the highly infectious Delta variant in the local area.

In the coming days after graduation, active duty soldiers will go to their first unit of assignment or follow-on training, such as Airborne, Ranger School, or phase two medical training. U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army National Guard soldiers will return to their home station units.

LeMaster took the time to speak to the soldiers in formation, informally, before the ceremony began. "You worked very hard to come to this moment," LeMaster told the trainees. "You're going to do great. Your Army experience, your Army adventure is beginning."

Infectious disease physician takes command of Brooke Army Medical Center

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An infectious disease physician assumed command of Brooke Army Medical Center during a ceremony held Aug. 2 in the Carolyn D. Putnam Auditorium. Army Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray stepped into the role of commanding general after being promoted to his new rank July 29.

"A promotion to the rank of general officer is rare," said Army Maj. Gen. Telita Crosland, Army deputy surgeon general, during the promotion ceremony. "To be more specific, he was one of only three selects in an eligible population of more than 1,000 colonels that places him in a .03 percent. I share this to underscore the trust and faith our Army has in this officer, this leader, to serve at the most strategic levels of our Army and our nation."

Crosland said Murray is a quintessential professional with a servant's heart.

"I know Clint is humbled by his selection, and maybe even a bit overwhelmed, but I also know he is absolutely ready for this next step," she said.

Murray, who is also an internal medicine physician, has a longstanding history with BAMC. He previously served as chief of the Infectious Disease Service at BAMC from 2011 to 2015 and was program director for the combined Army and Air Force ID Fellowship in San Antonio from 2005 to 2011.

Army Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby, commanding general of Regional Health Command-Central, was the presiding officer for the assumption of command.

"It's a tremendous honor to take the reins of this amazing

"Our dream job was actually to come back here to San Antonio and the ultimate dream was to come back and command BAMC. No one has the mission or the people like BAMC. It's truly a special place."

Army Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray, BAMC commander

team, but quite frankly, you are ready," Bagby told Murray. "You have arrived at BAMC during a pivotal time in the practice of modern medicine and in the face of change within the military health system."

Bagby highlighted how beneficial Murray's infectious disease experience is in the current COVID-19 environment.

"I know you will continue to provide the ready, relevant, responsive and reliable multi-disciplinary capabilities that BAMC brings to the fight every day for the Department of Defense, for its surrounding communities and for Bexar County," Bagby said. "I look forward to having you on the team and working with you. I am honored to serve alongside you."

The new BAMC commanding general thanked everyone for helping him with his transition to his new position. He also thanked his



JASON W. EDWARDS

Army Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby (right), Regional Health Command-Central commanding general, presents Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray (left), Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, with the BAMC guidon during an assumption of command ceremony in the Carolyn D. Putnam Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 2.

family for their continued support throughout his military career.

Murray said he and his family spent "a fair bit of time" in San Antonio throughout his military career.

"Our dream job was actually to come back here to San Antonio and the ultimate dream was to come back and

command BAMC," Murray said. "No one has the mission or the people like BAMC. It's truly a special place."

Murray reflected on BAMC's broad mission, partnerships and its impact on the South Texas community.

"BAMC without a doubt has the largest volume, diversity and acuity of cases

of any facility in the DOD," he said, praising all the assets within BAMC's arsenal.

"If you look at the four pillars of military medicine — operational medicine, patient care, education and training, research and innovation — no one can compare to BAMC," Murray said. "That's why it is so exciting to come back here."

Military and Family Life counselors help JBSA members cope

By Ciara Gosier

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio service members and their families have a plethora of resources when in need of someone to talk to about the challenges that come with military service.

Military and Family Life Counselors are just one of the resources available to help cope with reintegration after deployment, anxiety and depression, and stress management, among countless others.

"We are so grateful for all of the sacrifices our service members and their families make for our country," said Brandy Wright, 802nd Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant at JBSA-Randolph. "However, these sacrifices such as deployment, remote tours, extended work hours, and relocation, can all cause stress and tension in the relationships of military families."

The MFLC program offers short-term, non-medical counseling at no cost to service members, active duty National Guard and Reserve members and their families, as well as Department of



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Joint Base San Antonio Military and Family Life Counselors are just one of the resources available to help cope with reintegration after a deployment, anxiety and depression, and stress management, among countless others.

Defense civilian expeditionary workforce members and their families. MFLCs are licensed counselors, whose services provide access to counseling outside of the traditional medical system.

"It is imperative to have resources such as our MFLCs available to help improve mental resiliency and familial relationships so service members are ready to accomplish their mission.

Having access to programs such as these, without fear of retribution is the

hope that the MFLCs wish to extend in the use of the program.

"Someone to talk to outside of normal means during these difficult times can make such a huge difference in the lives of service members," she said.

"The great thing about our MFLCs is they do not keep any records unless there is a duty to warn. The greatest impact I see is military members are more willing to seek counseling and get the help they need for issues such as anger

management, communication, conflict resolution, parenting, deployment stress, reintegration, separation, homesickness, relocation adjustment, sadness, grief, and loss," Wright said.

There are also counselors available for the youngest members of the JBSA community as well.

Child and youth behavioral military and family life counselors provide support to military children for a variety of issues, including low self-esteem, behavioral problems and changes at home.

These counselors understand the issues military children face and can be especially helpful during challenging periods, including deployments and permanent change of station moves.

For more information on MFLC within the JBSA-area and each operating location, visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/Military-Family-Life-Counselors/>. To make an appointment, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-835-5848; JBSA-Lackland at 210-984-1076 or 210-238-5528; and JBSA-Randolph at 210-744-4829 or 996-4037.

Former WAVES meet for September reunion

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nearly 60 years after their graduation from Navy Officer Candidate School, several women who served in Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES, will gather in San Antonio for a reunion in September.

The reunion is being held for the women who graduated from WAVES Officer Candidate School, or OCS, at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, in 1964.

Fifteen of the living WAVES OCS graduates are expected to attend the reunion, which will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in downtown San Antonio, Sept. 17-19, said Ginny Hallager, a graduate of the OCS class and reunion organizer.

For two years, Hallager and her fellow OCS classmate, Elizabeth Carmack, have planned and put the reunion together. Hallager said the reunion will bring former WAVES members from across the country.

Established in 1942, WAVES allowed the Navy to accept women into the Naval Reserve as commissioned officers and at the enlisted level. By doing this, the Navy was able to release officers and men who were serving ashore, beginning in World War II, and replace them with women at shore installations. The term WAVES continued for women who served in the Navy until the 1970s.

During World War II, some 100,000 WAVES served in a wide variety of capacities, ranging from performing essential clerical duties to serving as instructors for male pilots-in-training.

Of the 43 women who completed the WAVES OCS in 1964, 34 of them are still alive, several of whom served in the Navy for many years, Hallager said.

"We have 16 women who retired with full careers on



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES, (from left) Mary Ann Johnston, Elizabeth Carmack, Marilu Pickens and Ginny Hallager, during Officer Candidate School in the 1960s.

active duty or in the Reserves," Hallager said. "We have two who became rear admirals."

Hallager, who lives in San Antonio, said the idea for the reunion started after she went looking for Carmack three years ago.

After months of searching, Hallager was able to contact Carmack by phone in October 2018. In February 2019, Carmack, who lives in Sumter, South Carolina, flew to San Antonio for the weekend, where she reconnected with her friend and classmate for the first time in over 55 years.

Immediately, the friends

started trying to reach out to their fellow WAVES classmates, doing online searches and going to ancestry websites to gather contact information. Carmack said she and Hallager were able to connect with some of their classmates the first weekend they were reunited.

"We almost found everybody, which we were astonished by, and that was the beginning of trying to put this reunion together," Carmack said.

Over the next two years, Hallager and Carmack made phone calls and sent emails and letters to classmates in planning and setting up the reunion.

Plans to hold the reunion last year were canceled by the pandemic, but the two friends did not give up and the reunion is scheduled to be held this year.

The reunion will include a memorial service for the nine classmates who have passed away. Photos and memorabilia of the WAVES OCS class members will be displayed. There will be a Zoom call for those graduates who are unable to attend in person.

The women were in the OCS at Naval Station Newport for 16 weeks, graduating in October 1964.

After completing OCS,

Hallager served for one year on active duty at Naval Station Great Lakes, Illinois, as counsel for the physical evaluation board for Headquarters Ninth Naval District, hearing disability cases. She married her husband of 57 years, Donald Hallager, an Air Force officer and pilot, the same year she graduated from OCS.

She said she is looking forward to reuniting with her classmates in San Antonio, most of whom she has not seen since they graduated together in 1964.

"We went through a lot in those 16 weeks of training," Hallager said. "Everybody is so excited about actually doing this. We have such a feeling of patriotism and of what we did was very unusual. We were sort of the leading edge of women really coming into their own, entering the service back in the 60s, and many of them did extraordinary work."

Carmack said the Navy and WAVES gave women like her career opportunities that were not available to them in the private sector in the 1960s. She said they were able to take advantage of these opportunities while serving their country.

Carmack served in the Navy for three years as an administrative service officer at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

"Being 21 years old and having immediate responsibility to get something done and having people depend on you to do that, that was an extraordinarily character-building process," Carmack said.

Carmack said she will always have a bond with her classmates because of what they experienced as young women going through OCS and then serving in the military.

"This was an opportunity to do something extraordinary," Carmack said. "We felt useful and I think we all felt like we had a real purpose. We filled a great need and we did it well."



PHOTOS BY PFC. JOSHUA TAECKENS

A Colombian army UH-60 Black Hawk carries two members of the Colombian army search and rescue team, July 24, 2021, at Tolemaida Air Base, Colombia.



U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division medics and a Colombian army combat medic conduct medical evacuation rehearsals in preparation for a combined airborne exercise July 24 at Tolemaida Air Base, Colombia.

Army South develops medical evacuation rehearsals with Colombian combat medics

By Pfc. Joshua Taeckens

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South personnel and 82nd Airborne Division medics joined Colombian military partners to conduct medical evacuation rehearsals July 24, preceding a combined Dynamic Force Employment airborne exercise at Tolemaida Air Base, Colombia.

The DFE airborne exercise, also known as Exercise Hydra II, is a six-day exercise involving jungle and water survival training, multiple airborne jumps and a field training exercise.

Capt. Heather Meier, the physician assistant for Army South's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, said the rehearsals were in preparation for combined medical operations in case a paratrooper is injured on the drop zone.

"We're working on different patient loading methods on the available platforms we will have available for this exercise, one being the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, another being the civilian ambulance and then some utility vehicles that we have out here,"

Meier said. "After we are done practicing our evacuation platform loading, we're going to do some skills labs that will cover splinting, hemorrhaging control, and potentially traumatic brain injury training."

The reason for this rehearsal was to ensure that Colombian and U.S. Army medics were on the same page in order to get patients evacuated from the drop zone and into a higher level of care.

Preparation for this medical rehearsal was conducted by Lt. Col. Lolito Ganal, Army South chief of medical operations. Ganal first visited Colombia back in May to assess Colombian medical capabilities and determine what medical assets would be needed to support the combined DFE airborne exercise.

Other than the language barrier, the main challenge was finding the proper level of care for a potentially life-threatening injury. Ganal found the hospital in Bogota would provide just that.

"Our primary hospital would be the main hospital in Bogota for care if we had to evacuate a patient," Ganal said. "If we were to perform

a rotary-wing evacuation to Bogota, it's about a 25-minute flight."

Challenges with organizing and planning this type of training rehearsal are far outweighed by its importance, according to Maj. Eva Lucia Macias, bacteriologist and epidemiologist officer for the Colombian army. Macias is in charge of the operational health coordination for the rehearsal.

"The importance of this rehearsal is to share patient management skills between the U.S. and Colombian armies, where we can exchange and carry outpatient care from scenarios with various levels of difficulty," Macias said. "These exercises should be carried out more often in order to share all the knowledge we can give each other about our medical operations."

Overall the planning and practice of this medical rehearsal was a successful display of interoperability. The exercise allowed both countries' medical staff to gain new insight and experience on how each country operates while demonstrating the strong bond between the two nations.

ARNORTH Caisson Platoon Sergeant takes final ride

By Lauren Padden

U.S. ARMY NORTH

The sound of nine horses hooves clip-clopping on the roads of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston signaled the final post ride of Sgt. 1st Class Timothy French, U.S. Army North Caisson Platoon Sergeant. He was joined by his wife Marisa, U.S. Army North Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion and Company leadership, and his platoon soldiers July 23.

Moseying past the Quadrangle, sauntering down the historic streets and marking the halfway point of the ride at the main flag pole at MacArthur Parade Field, French was able to reflect on his time at the platoon with his fellow riders.

"The chance to get one last ride with my guys, I'm happy about it, it means a lot," French said.

Concluding the ride, U.S. Army North leadership and personnel, along with friends and family, joined in sharing their fond memories and highlighting the accomplishments of French during a reception held at the Fort Sam Houston Museum.

"Everybody in this room, whether they experienced it or not, you need to acknowledge and understand what this Soldier did for us," said Lt. Col. Richard P. Teta, U.S. Army North Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion

commander, as he gestured to French. "The benefits we will reap will come from the hard work of you and your team, and has been passed on to a great team."

French embodied the Army's "People First" philosophy, which extended to the caisson horses, by working tirelessly to ensure the safety of both horse and rider within the platoon. In addition to implementing safety training for the caisson riders, he researched and purchasing a custom nine-horse trailer that extended the radius and time the horses can safely be away from the stables performing missions.

"From the time he arrived Sgt. French never stopped," said 1st Sgt. Christopher G. Taffoya, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North. "We have trailers, we have a whole new herd, the list is so long of [his] accomplishments that lay down the foundation for the next generation."

The current herd of 13 horses has changed for the better over time through the diligent work of French which vastly improved the caisson mission. He selected eight horses with ideal temperaments to add to the herd and retired to aging and medically injured horses. They found new homes through careful selection by the Caisson Horse Adoption Board, a program

French stood up.

Taffoya also lauded French's operation and budgetary skillset. "I appreciate all the hard work you do and you weren't done until contracts were renegotiated and the Army saved money," Taffoya said.

By modifying the hay contract, French reduced the annual cost by \$14,000 annually, cutting the cost in half, and by purchasing new hay feeders, waste was reduced by 36 percent. Additionally, the modification and negotiation of their uniform dry cleaning contract reduced costs by \$46,000 annually while ensuring updated cleaning standards were applied.

Robert Naething, U.S. Army North deputy to the commanding general, referred to French as "a make it happen guy," a testament to his hard work day in and day out which extended to evenings, weekends, and after-hours beyond the typical duty day.

When a record-making winter storm hit JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in February of this year, French and one other Soldier were the lone caretakers of the herd due to the winter road conditions. However, French was able to facilitate non-stop care to the horses by gathering volunteers from on post.

"Sgt. French has led an absolute no-fail mission when it comes to military funeral honors and there is

nothing more important than that," Teta added.

French attributed that no-fail mission to his village of people.

"So often you hear it takes a village, this is my village [referring to those present] and it takes every one of you," French said. "I didn't do it by myself. I was just in the position, in the moment, to have to go and put it all together and I couldn't have done it without you."

Always humble, French and his team conducted approximately 100 caisson missions and he also had the honor of planning and riding in the 58th Inaugural Presidential parade.

The motto of the caisson platoon is "Till our final ride, it'll always be our pride." French's final post ride showed that his pride in the U.S. Army will be lifelong and his impact will always be remembered by those he served with.

Concluding his tour of duty at U.S. Army North, he will officially retire from the Army after 20 years of honorable service in February 2022, where he will join his family in Germany.

The Fort Sam Houston Caisson Platoon proudly honors fallen members of the military with funeral honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. For more information, visit <https://www.arnorth.army.mil/Outreach/Caisson-Platoon-Funeral-Honors/>.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Timothy French takes his final post ride, alongside his wife Marisa, at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston, Texas on July 23, 2021. Concluding his tour of duty at U.S. Army North, he will officially retire from the Army after 20 years of honorable service in February 2022, where he will join his family in Germany.

LACKLAND

HH-60G Pave Hawk makes debut at 344th TS

By Agnes Koterba

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An HH-60G Pave Hawk landed at its new home July 26 on the grounds of the 344th Training Squadron, Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The aircraft flew its last trip from the 512th Rescue Squadron, part of the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. Students, instructors, and guests gathered to welcome the helicopter and the team on board.

Though retired from service, the HH-60G will serve as a training aid to career enlisted aviators, providing technical training students with opportunities to learn through hands-on instruction.

"The addition of an HH-60G brings the CEA COE up-to-date with aircraft systems. While the airframe is being retired, the rotor system, engine, airframe, navigation, and munitions systems are relevant to today's flying force," said Master Sgt. Thomas Liscomb, 344th TRS and COE instructor.

Instructors from the Inter-American Air Forces Academy were on-site to prepare the aircraft for permanent placement within the 344th TRS hangar. With more than 2,000 students projected to graduate from the COE, students now have the ability to train with a larger inventory.

"While not every student will occupy a crew position on a helicopter, all cross the threshold day one into that hangar and will now feel an even greater emotional weight and significance about their decision to volunteer as career enlisted aviators," Liscomb added.



An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, lands at the grounds of the 344th Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 26.

PHOTOS BY JASON WILKINSON



The flight crew from the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, stand in front of the HH-60G Pave Hawk they delivered to the 344th Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, July 26. From left are: Flight Engineer Steve Burt, Pilot Dave Breun, Crew Chief Larry Reynolds, and Pilot Greg Laird.



IAFAA instructors disassemble the HH-60B Pave Hawk helicopter, preparing it for permanent placement on the grounds of the 344th Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland July 27.

San Antonio Innovation Summit takes on ‘accelerating change’

By Shannon Carabajal

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the theme of Accelerate Change, the Department of the Air Force pushed innovation forward during the inaugural San Antonio Innovation Summit Aug. 3-4 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

With both in-person and live-streaming opportunities, more than 750 people attended the summit that brought leading government and industry innovation experts together with military members, community leaders and private-sector representatives to highlight successes, lessons learned and paths taken to successfully implement projects that are changing the Air Force.

“We have to remain competitive through technology, through the best and brightest Airmen, through lean processes,” said Col. Kevin Mantovani, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center vice commander, during his keynote address. “We have to design a better Air Force that’s quicker, more lethal, and deters and can defeat any adversary. That is what you’re here to do. You’re here to think about accelerating change and innovating.”

This year’s event, a partnership between AFIMSC, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Education and Training Command, AFWERX and the City of San Antonio, grew out of a smaller, virtual summit AFIMSC held in 2020.

“Building upon last year’s innovation summit, we’re really excited to have our military and community partners working together to provide our customers — the installations and the installation sparks — with the information they need



LUKE J. ALLEN

Eric Bergery Jr. (left) speaks to Master Sgt. Mike Sullivan at the Air Force Gaming booth at the San Antonio Innovation Summit on Aug. 3 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

to succeed,” said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer. “The only way we can do that is by partnering, working together and letting everyone know what’s out there across the installation and mission support innovation ecosystem.”

Following CDC protocols to allow for safe, in-person gathering, the event was a welcome opportunity for collaboration among organizers and attendees from across the Air Force and Department of Defense.

“It’s an exciting point for San Antonio,” said Will Garrett, vice president and director of cybersecurity development at Port San Antonio. “As a city, as a community, government and academia, our job is to create the connection points - the infrastructure, the activity outside the wire — that helps our mission partners seek that acceleration of change, find

innovation and discover talent. This summit is kind of a convergence of all those entities that support the national defense strategy and Joint Base San Antonio mission partners getting to that pace of change we need with technology.”

Connecting the right people at the right time is important to helping the Air Force and Department of Defense build a powerful innovation network, said Patrick Bowar, director of technology and information for the Air Force Personnel Center.

“Innovation does not happen in a bubble,” he said, adding that cross-talk and regular collaboration between organizations benefit everybody. “We can all leverage the same great ideas and the solutions we’re using to deliver those ideas.”

Throughout the event, attendees heard from leading innovators and attended breakout sessions, workshops,

innovation panels and a vendor expo. The breakout sessions gave participants a chance to try unique problem-solving activities and get hands-on experience with technology and innovative programs that are changing the Air Force, including augmented and virtual reality technology, small unmanned aircraft systems, Air Force Gaming and software platforms

For 1st Lt. Kendall Hubbard, budget flight commander with the 341st Comptroller Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, learning how other organizations tackle and solve problems was the best part of the event because she believes it will help her move ideas forward at her installation.

“Hearing ideas from other bases, especially bases with other commands and other missions, and ideas from outside of the military ... I think bringing that back and

“We have to design a better Air Force that’s quicker, more lethal, and deters and can defeat any adversary. That is what you’re here to do. You’re here to think about accelerating change and innovating.”

**Col. Kevin Mantovani,
Air Force Installation and
Mission Support Center
vice commander**

being able to share that will open up more ways for information to flow. That will be my biggest takeaway,” she said.

Col. Thomas Wegner, director of the AETC Analysis and Innovation Directorate, echoed that idea, urging everyone in attendance to network, build relationships and learn how to navigate the innovation ecosystem so they can help the service continue to innovate at the speed of relevance.

“If there’s only one thing that they remember, it is that they’re not alone. There’s a network of teams across the DOD who want to do innovative things,” he said. “If an Airman or Guardian has a neat idea and doesn’t know what to do or where to go with it, there are organizations at their base and in their command that can help them take that idea from innovation to impact.”

IAAFA team shines at professional development program

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The language skills of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy team were front and center during Programa Integral para Suboficiales de Alta Jerarquía, a professional development training engagement conducted with U.S. Army South and the Colombian Army June 14-25.

The two-week event took place at the Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation in Fort Benning, Georgia, and MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, for approximately 40 soldiers from the Colombian and Peruvian armies. PISAJ-15 served as the next step in their professional development as army sergeants major.

During the weeks-long training, five IAAFA members provided uninterrupted assistance during PISAJ-15. They translated two weeks of back-to-back briefings from English to Spanish — working after hours to facilitate talks between the Latin American Soldiers whether they attended a military briefing, talked to a non-Spanish speaking military member, or shopped the Exchange.

“It was a great experience,” said Master Sgt. Alexander Jaime, IAAFA Standardization/Evaluation Chief. “I think what we showed is that we bring so much more to the table than just our language, the continuous after-hours support and the flexibility to get the mission done.”

Chief Master Sgt. Emilio Avila, IAAFA Superinten-

dent, led a mission briefing on Day 1 of PISAJ-15 to discuss the academy’s capabilities.

Tech. Sgt. Monserat Bravo, non-commissioned officer in charge, IAAFA International Student Operations, served as one of four members who led a gender integration panel on women in the military.

“In the past, I had the habit of sitting away from the table,” Bravo said. “My male colleagues tried to include me and let me know that I’m part of the team and shouldn’t exclude myself. In that way, they’ve helped me see that we have the same capacity regardless of gender.”

The gender discussion generated dozens of questions and comments from Colombian soldiers, including Sergeant Major Carmona Adiel Henao, Colombian Army. She congratulated the women for helping lay the groundwork for other females in the military.

“I am a mom, too. I have a 14-year-old son,” Henao said. “I’ve also had to figure it out in tough moments at home and at work, but it hasn’t been an impediment for me to get ahead. I really congratulate all of you today for breaking boundaries in this country; it serves as an example in our own countries.”

PISAJ-15 was the first time some IAAFA members worked as translators in a similar event.

“We do security cooperation; we are ambassadors for IAAFA, Air Education and Training Command and the U.S., and that experience helped a lot,” Jaime said. “There were some difficult moments, but we were able to do it seamlessly without any drop-off.”



PHOTOS BY VANESSA R. ADAME

Tech. Sgt. Cesar Acosta, 318th Training Squadron Aircraft Hydraulic Systems instructor, translates during a survival briefing at the Military Advisor Training Academy June 16, 2021, at Fort Benning, Georgia. The professional development training engagement was conducted with U.S. Army South and the Colombian Army June 14-25.



Tech. Sgt. Monserat Bravo, non-commissioned officer in charge, IAAFA International Student Operations, translates during a survival briefing at the Military Advisor Training Academy June 16, 2021, at Fort Benning, Georgia.

DLIELC welcomes alumnus Hungarian Air Chief

Defense Language Institute English Language Center

Historically, the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland hosts about 100 international visits every year. These visits welcome high-ranking individuals from all over the world, all in support of the Department of Defense's mission and security cooperation goals.

In the second international visit since the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions, DLIELC welcomed Maj. Gen. Nandor Kilian, Hungarian Air Force Air Chief, to the DLIELC campus June 13. Kilian was joined by Hungarian military training and aviation experts as they. The delegation toured the DLIELC Aviation Language Training Center.

Kilian is a former DLIELC student. In 2001, he was enrolled in DLIELC's Professional Military Education preparation course as a lieutenant colonel. Now, Kilian serves as the commander of the

entire air force branch of the Hungarian Defence Force, an example of how the relationships built at DLIELC can lead to stronger future security cooperation around the world.

"National military leaders' ability to communicate is foundational to the interoperability of their forces. When our allies send their service members to learn English and then train with our U.S. forces, the relationships they build and the cultural understanding gained underpins future cooperation," said Col. Joseph Schaefer, DLIELC commandant. "Building international relationships and capacity through English language training, and having former students return as leaders in their respective militaries is a prime example of why we do, what we do here at DLIELC."

Hungary is looking to increase aviation competences across their air force; the capabilities provided by DLIELC enhances the United States' ability to be a partner of choice for future Hungarian aviation training.



Maj. Gen. Nandor Kilian (right), Hungarian Air Chief, joins Col. Joseph Schaefer (left), Defense Language Institute English Language Center commandant, in discussion regarding the current training advancements at DLIELC at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 13.

SPENCER BERRY

Commentary: Who do I owe?

By Master Sgt.
Jonathan Q. Hosey

ROBERT D. GAYLOR NCO ACADEMY
EPME INSTRUCTOR

In my decade of service, some of my toughest challenges were rooted in making decisions that were not the most popular or one that benefited social utility.

In these challenging situations, self-reflection and reliance on our core values — integrity, service, and excellence — provided support and reassurance that I acted with honorable intentions. As I reflected on past experiences when I made tough decisions, I did not question why I am making these decisions but who am I making these decisions for.

You may have encountered an article titled "Military or Ethics" by Dr. James H. Toner,

"As military members, The Profession of Arms insists we must be moral individuals of both action and intellect, skilled at getting things done, while at the same time conversant in the military art."

where he introduces the ethical principle of owing. Toner contends military ethics cannot exist without the concept of owing. Everyone must understand who and what they owe. If we know why we owe what we do, we should recognize the obligation, responsibility, and duty that give rise to moral thinking and ethical reasoning.

In my current profession as a Professional Military Education Instructor, the decisions I make are echoed through my student's actions and have cascading effects on a graver level, executing the mission. So, the thought occurs, who do I owe?

I owe my students a leading-edge, relevant, and sought-after leadership experience that challenges them to be critical thinking and leaders of Airmen. I owe my Commandant the fact I am executing a shared vision for providing the continuum of education necessary to inspire and develop enlisted leaders with the moral framework of integrity, service, and excellence.

I owe the academy's namesake, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 5 Robert D. Gaylor. Did I serve people hot french fries? If you find yourself feeling perplexed at the hot french fries' reference,

do yourself a favor and look up "A Motto for Life: Robert D. Gaylor."

Understanding our obligations often differs with our respective professions and exercised a level of leadership. However, our fundamental responsibility is captured in the Doctrine for the Armed Forces, more specifically Appendix B, The Profession of Arms.

As military members, The Profession of Arms insists we must be moral individuals of both action and intellect, skilled at getting things done, while at the same time conversant in the military art. The framework outlined in Appendix B forms the broader

perspective of our obligations and focuses our attention on the larger picture. However, it does not give way to our distinct responsibilities.

While I certainly endorse opening a book to gain a new perspective, there is an underlying assumption that people can read a book, and somehow that act makes you a better person. The problem is that until you apply what you have learned, you stay unchanged. I am not insisting you seek out opportunities to test your moral compass but rather understand your obligations.

When you know your obligations and who you owe, making an ethical decision becomes a more straightforward process. The real obstacle is acting on what is ethically correct despite the outcome.

RANDOLPH

Finance guru named 'On the Spot Award' winner for June

By Tim Gantner

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What happens when you wake up on payday and check your bank account to find out you weren't paid the right amount?

What if you weren't paid at all? Ouch! A gut punch.

For the 340th Flying Training Group, there is a guy who knows the ropes and has the tools to ensure you get paid.

That guy is Tech. Sgt. Brett Daniel and he's as sound as a dollar. He's the group's point of contact for managing military pay processing.

In fact, Daniel's responsible for assisting roughly 539 uniformed Airmen.

"Tech. Sgt. Brett Daniel is the lifeline to our mission. Without him in our pay office, it would be a true struggle to do what we do on a daily

basis," said Master Sgt. Michele Boyd, Daniels' supervisor.

The Air Force standard to assist Airmen with pay issues is within five business days. Still, Daniel responds within 24-48 hours to help line your pockets with the money you're owed.

"The top priority for me, at least, is getting members paid," Daniel said.

Daniel arrived at the 340th FTG in 2014 as a traditional Reservist. Then, over the next two years, he developed his own system for faster turnarounds.

"The SharePoint system is an updated form of receiving emails but allows for higher levels of tracking and visibility to both financial management and the member," Daniel said.

When Daniel isn't assisting Airmen with pay, he's busy training three traditional Reservists.

"I am a strong believer in on-the-job training," Daniel said. "I train them on actual work within groups, one-on-one, and then as a supervisor where I allow them to work on their own and I audit."

"I would say he is the face of headquarters 340th TFG financial management. I'm happy to have him here to keep our mission going," Boyd said.

Daniel always strives for excellence. He researches regulations and seeks knowledge to stay on top of any changes.

If you're a member of the 340th FTG, you now know a "guy" who will solve your payment problems.

The "On the Spot Award" is presented to highlight exceptional performance. Daniel is setting his own standard for faster turnarounds to make sure



TIM GANTNER

Tech. Sgt. Brett Daniels, a non-commissioned officer in charge of financial operations, was named the 340th Flying Training Group's On the Spot award winner for July 2021.

Airmen get paid.

"I'm happy to be named 'On the Spot' for July and will continue to provide excellent customer service to our members," Daniel said.

With the acute ability to assist and train Airmen, his performance has been noticed, and he's being recognized for his contributions to the 340th FTG team.

12TH FTW EXEC RECOGNIZED AS 'HIDDEN HERO'

The Schertz, Cibolo and Selma Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee recognized Maj. Daniel T. Bourgeois, 12th Flying Training Wing executive officer, as the "Hidden Hero" for the month of June at a ceremony July 20. Bourgeois addressed the audience and was presented with a Texas flag that was flown over the state capital in Austin. Bourgeois served his community by chairing the city of Schertz's Building and Standards Commission and Historical Preservation Committee.



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Gen. Edmondson assumes command of 2nd Air Force



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander, delivers remarks during the Second Air Force change of command ceremony at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 30.

**By Senior Airman
Kimberly L. Mueller**
81ST TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson took command of 2nd Air Force from Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos during a change of command ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 30.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presided over the ceremony.

Second Air Force manages 2,300 active training courses for approximately 150,000 Defense Department and international student graduates annually.

Edmondson is now responsible for the development, oversight and direction of all operational aspects of basic military training, initial skills training

and advanced technical training of all Air Force enlisted members and support officers.

Traditionally, the changing of command authority is represented symbolically by passing of the guidon.

Once Webb received the guidon from Tullos, he passed it to Edmondson. At that moment, Edmondson officially took command of 2nd Air Force.

"It is incredibly humbling to once again join the Second Air Force team," Edmondson said. "I am passionate about our mission and it's an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of an organization responsible for building the Airmen and Guardians we need to win the future fight."

"I can't imagine being anywhere else in the Air Force," she said. "Keesler Air Force Base, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is such a fantastic

place to live. We have been welcomed back in the community with open arms and it truly feels like coming home. My family and I are very excited."

Prior to commanding the 2nd Air Force, Edmondson was the Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, commanding a 4,300-member cadet wing and more than 200 Air Force and civilian personnel.

"The men and women of 2nd Air Force have dedicated themselves to building and honing the human weapon system, which is the most vital ingredient in our Air Force and Space Force," Edmondson said. "I am proud and honored to be their commander. I look forward to enabling their mission and serving alongside all of the outstanding Airmen, civilian Airmen and Guardians across our numbered Air Force."