

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021



SGT. DAVID COOK

The official party of the U.S. Army North change of command ceremony, Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson (left), the outgoing commander of U.S. Army North, Gen. Glen D. VanHerck (center), Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, and Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr. (right), U.S. Army North incoming commanding general, render a salute during the playing of the National Anthem at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 9.

## U.S. Army North welcomes new commanding general

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## Last of Doolittle Raiders memorialized during ceremony at JBSA-FSH

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## 149th FW pitches in for Louisiana cleanup

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COURTESY GRAPHIC

## What JBSA tech school students need to know about voting

**By Monty Marsolf**  
802ND FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON  
COMMUNITY READINESS SPECIALIST

The right to vote is precious, and many Americans have given their lives for us to have that right.

All technical school students throughout Joint Base San Antonio should be ready and able to vote in any election they are eligible to vote in.

An election does not need to be a presidential election to be important. It may be a hometown election with a proposition to change the city charter, to increase property taxes, or to elect new judges.

Each of these ballot items is important, and it's recommended students take action now to be able to vote in the next election. Voting jurisdictions require residents to be registered to vote approximately 30 to 45 days prior to an election.

So how does one ensure they are registered to vote?

Tech school students need to complete the Standard Form 76,

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Federal Post Card Application, or FPCA, date the form, sign the form with an actual signature, and then mail that SF 76 to their hometown's local election office.

Even if you have already registered to vote and think you will be home by Election Day to vote in person, it's better to send in the form after obtaining a new address where you are located (assuming you are not interested in changing your state of legal residence).

While you are still on active duty, it's a great idea to submit an FPCA in January of each year, so that your voting office can annotate your file and know where to send your absentee ballot.

An FPCA can be obtained from the squadron Unit Voting Assistance Officer, or UVAO, or online at the Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, website.

You can fill in the SF76 on the FVAP.gov website, but you must print out the completed

form so that you can sign it with a "wet" signature before mailing it in. Key voting information is readily available at FVAP.gov.

People may have heard of the Standard Form 186, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, or FWAB, and wonder what that is used for. The FWAB is used by registered voters who have not received their absentee ballots with enough time to complete and mail them in to meet the state deadline for absentee ballot return.

Some states require FWABs to be received on or before an election date. Check with the local UVAO for assistance.

Americans may have only one voting residence. For many Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Guardians, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who just arrived at JBSA, whether it's for Basic Military Training or their initial tech school, their voting location is most likely where their home of record is, which is where they lived immediately prior to entering the military). To change a state of residency, then get with your unit's UVAO

for assistance.

For tech school members at JBSA-Lackland, the Tech Training Airman Readiness Element, or TTARE, office at building 5616, room 106, can help with a variety of voting-related assistance requests.

The JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers maintain the Installation Voting Assistance Offices, or IVAOs.

At JBSA-Lackland, the IVAO is located at the Military & Family Readiness Center, 2160 Kenly Ave., building 1249. It can be reached at 210-671-3723 or [lackland.vote@us.af.mil](mailto:lackland.vote@us.af.mil).

At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the IVAO is at the Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Road, building 2797, and can be reached at 210-221-8683 or by email at [usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-votingassistance@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-votingassistance@mail.mil).

At JBSA-Randolph, the Military & Family Readiness Center IVAO is located at 555 F Street West, building 693, and can be reached at 210-652-5321 or [randolph.vote@us.af.mil](mailto:randolph.vote@us.af.mil).

### JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

**Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller**

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE  
SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to [jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

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

**Q: I have recently received orders and now have to start the exhausting process of moving my family, wife and two kids to a new location.**

**With the current COVID-19 restrictions and a lot of individuals are utilizing telework, this already taxing time may become even more so when it is hard to get in contact with the necessary individuals.**

**What can be done so that this process can be smooth for not only my family but others that are soon to PCS? Thanks for your time!**

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

Airmen and Guardians selected for a permanent change of station are now able to access automated family member travel screenings.

As of Aug. 30, Air Force members with dependents selected for an assignment will receive an email and a myVector notification to complete the mandatory screening questionnaire electronically.

These changes to the system will simplify the lives of our Airmen, Guardians and their families, giving a much cleaner way to clear members for their assignment. If any issue with this process arises, contact your local Military Personnel Flight Career Development Section.

The 502d Logistics Readiness Squadron wants to ensure that all service members and their families receive excellent service during the peak of household goods moving season.

For more information, visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/News/News/Article/2760957/september-is-peak-household-goods-moving-season/>.

Best of luck to you at your next duty station!

**Q: This question is in regards to PT tests. I was told that there will be new guidance for the Department of the Air Force coming down when it comes to PT testing. Is this true? If**

**so, when does this go into effect?**

**A:** Great question!

Back in July, the Air Force announced that they will provide Airmen five physical fitness assessment alternatives starting in early 2022.

Airmen will select from the traditional 1.5-mile run, 1-mile walk or the High Aerobic Multi Shuttle Run to meet the cardio requirement. They would then select from traditional push-ups or hand-release push-ups for one strength component; and from sit-ups, the cross-leg reverse crunch or plank for the other strength component to complete the comprehensive fitness assessment.

The Air Force fitness working group conducted research and testing on the health benefits of the current fitness component and various other components to come up with alternative options.

Air Force members and fitness monitors will have approximately six months for a break-in period to familiarize themselves with the use and execution of the alternative testing options prior to having them officially available in early 2022.

The six-month timeline will help ensure fitness assessment cells are prepared to train physical training leaders to administer tests using the new options.

These changes will also take place for the Space Force as well.

## Air Force announces mandatory COVID-19 vaccine implementation guidelines

**Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs**

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall directed the COVID-19 vaccine implementation guidelines for Department of the Air Force total force military members Sept. 3, in accordance with the Secretary of Defense mandate last month.

The service implementation plan requires Airmen and Guardians to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the following dates, unless seeking an exemption:

- Nov. 2 — Active Duty personnel
- Dec. 2 — Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel

Vaccinations will help ensure service members' health and safety while preserving the department's readiness and ability to execute worldwide air and space forces missions, according to department leaders.

"We are taking an aggressive approach to protect our service members, their

families and their communities from COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Delta variant," said Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones. "As members of the nation's Armed Forces, our Airmen and Guardians must be able to respond to situations around the globe — being fully vaccinated will help us safely meet the readiness requirements that our national security depends on."

Mandatory vaccination through a military provider will initially only include the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19<sup>®</sup> vaccine (initially referred to as "Comirnaty<sup>®</sup>" upon receipt of U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval), which is currently the only vaccine approved by the FDA. Airmen and Guardians may continue to volunteer to receive the COVID-19 vaccines approved under Emergency Use Authorization, including Moderna, Janssen and AstraZeneca, from both military and civilian providers.

Service members are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completing

the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after receiving a single dose of a one-dose vaccine. This includes one or two-dose options authorized under EUA or full FDA approval.

Airmen and Guardians who have proof of vaccination documented in their medical records per this definition will be considered as meeting the vaccination requirement.

Prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, service members have access to healthcare providers and chaplains to address questions or concerns with COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, commanders must consult with their servicing Staff Judge Advocate for additional guidance on vaccination non-compliance.

### Exemptions

Service members have the option to apply for medical or administrative exemption, including religious accommodations. The process for

obtaining exemptions for all mandatory vaccinations is provided in AFI 48-110.1P, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, for medical exemptions, and DAFI 52-201, Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force, for religious accommodations. No exemptions from the vaccine will be approved solely because Airmen and Guardians have an approved retirement or separation date.

### Vaccination non-compliance

Any refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, absent an approved exemption or accommodation, may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or UCMJ. Military commanders retain the full range of disciplinary options available to them under the UCMJ.

For more information, Airmen and Guardians are encouraged to work with their chains of command and local military treatment facilities.

# JBSA First Sergeant Diamond Sharp Awards

Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council

The Diamond Sharp Award is sponsored by the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council and recognizes outstanding Airmen who continually exceed the standard to meet the Air Force mission.



Chung

**TECH. SGT.  
NICHOLAS H. CHUNG**

Unit: 616th Operations Center

Duty Title: NCOIC, Training Program Development

Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Chung satisfied a two-year training deficiency for 328 Command and Control weapon system operators by identifying qualification standards

and authoring training documentation. He is also developing the first Information Warfare Operation Center Instructor curriculum. Chung's leadership is evident through his active support of his community. He has coordinated 10 veteran's food drives and was elected as the booster club vice president. In response to the Afghanistan refugee crisis, he has launched a multi-organization donation program, currently amassing more than 200 pounds of essential supplies.

**STAFF SGT.  
JACOB W. DAY**

Unit: 802nd Security Forces Squadron

Duty Title: Emergency Communication Center Controller

Staff Sgt. Jacob Day headed a volunteer event for a local summer concert series. He directed a group of eight volunteers for organization and security of the event

enjoyed by more than 300 residents, receiving a commendation letter from the park manager for outstanding professionalism. Day also led a Security Forces team to assist the Freedom Chapel with the "Feds Feed Families" drive-thru event. The occasion

aided in the distribution of more than 2,000 pounds of food and supplies to needy San Antonio households in a COVID-19-safe environment.



Lyles

**STAFF SGT.  
TAMIA A. LYLES**

Unit: 59th Surgical Operations Squadron

Duty Title: NCOIC Audiology/Speech Pathology

As the NCOIC of the 59th Medical Wing's audiology and speech pathology clinics, Staff Sgt. Tamia Lyles continually shows devotion to the Air Force mission, as well as

her patients. She currently oversees clinical schedules for six providers, coordinating more than 4,300 patient encounters exceeding both the Defense Health Organizations access to care and timelessness standards. Lyles selflessly volunteered to support the COVID-19 mission where as the sole surgical service technician, she trained 16 personnel on proper swabbing technique, diagnosing 2,000 patients, decreasing the market burden.



Vinson

**STAFF SGT.  
CLAYTON VINSON**

Unit: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-South Central

Duty Title: Supervisor, Inbound Customer Service  
Staff Sgt. Clayton Vinson is an inbound customer service supervisor at the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-South Central. In August,

Vinson reviewed 1,400 storage request and coordinated the seamless deliveries for 2,206 federal

employees and service members. He also scrutinized 8,370 shipments in temporary storage, reclaiming 189 of unauthorized storage days which saved \$19,000. Vinson also oversaw 24 data corrections, rectifying erroneous system entries allowing the validation of \$13 million in service charges. He also dedicated four hours to the San Antonio Food Bank clearing farms of waste, enabling 90,000 meals to be served weekly.



Hartman

**AIRMAN  
SETH A. HARTMANN**

Unit: 453rd Electronic Warfare Squadron

Duty Title: Computer Programmer

Airman Seth A. Hartmann deserves the Diamond Sharp Award because of his dedication and wingmanship to pursue excellence in his profession. He continually shows his

willingness to assist and teach his fellow Airman when they need a hand or with coding issues. Hartman is a self-starter, taking the initiative to solve tough problems. He developed and implemented libraries for complex systems to solve issues to enhance the unit's effectiveness. Outside of work, he gives back to his community by assisting at the San Antonio Food Bank.



# JBSA commemorates 20th anniversary of 9/11

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

To commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Joint Base San Antonio hosted a synchronized flag formation at all three installations (JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph) at 7:46 a.m. Sept. 10.

The ceremonies included a flag formation, a moment of silence, an invocation and a speaker. Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base

Wing and JBSA commander, led the remembrance ceremony at JBSA-Lackland.

The particular time of 7:46 a.m. Central time was chosen as that was when Flight 11 crashed into the north face of the North Tower (1 WTC) of the World Trade Center in New York City, between floors 93 and 99, at 8:46 a.m. Eastern time on Sept. 11, 2001.



TRISTIN ENGLISH

*Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing salute as the U.S. flag is lowered to half-staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 10 in honor of those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.*



SEAN WORRELL

*Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing salute as the U.S. flag is lowered to half-staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Sept. 10 in honor of those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.*



JOHNNY SALDIVAR

*Members of the 502nd Air Base Wing salute as the U.S. flag is lowered to half-staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 10 in honor of those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.*

## New IGSA will provide wounded, recovering service members with transportation

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Alamo Area Council of Governments will soon provide bus service for service members assigned to the Joint Base San Antonio Soldier Recovery Unit, or who are participating or enrolled in the medical recovery program at Brooke Army Medical Center, thanks to a newly established Intergovernmental Support Agreement.

"An Intergovernmental Support Agreement, or IGSA, is a legal instrument — an agreement with a State or local government to provide, receive, or share installation support services," according to Steve Langelier, contracting officer, 502nd

Contracting Squadron.

"Before this project was offered to AACOG, the government compared options, using existing Federal government contracting procedures or partnering with AACOG under an IGSA," he said. The decision was made to utilize the IGSA, saving the government money and resources.

Through the agreement, AACOG will provide qualified vehicle operators to drive government furnished buses, as well as dispatch services and administrative personnel, said Cesar Fuentes, contracting officer representative at BAMC.

"The contractor will safely transport wounded service members, designated non-medical attendants, and family members for scheduled

appointments, rehabilitation programs, and in- or out-processing, to and from all locations on JBSA as necessary for rehabilitation, administrative, or subsistence needs," Fuentes said.

"Transportation secondary to medical care will also be supported within a 25-mile radius of JBSA."

Transportation services through the IGSA will be coordinated by the JBSA Soldier Recovery Unit and are expected to begin Dec. 1, Fuentes said.

The new bus service IGSA is prime example of how community partners can support JBSA missions.

"We are so very honored to have the opportunity to serve our nation in this way," said Diane Rath, AACOG executive director. "Alamo

Regional Transit already provides similar services for veterans, the elderly, and people with disabilities in the Alamo Region, and it just makes sense for us to do this for the military as well."

In the future, Rath looks forward to adding more Blanket IGSA's to support the joint base.

"As we add services to this agreement, we are strengthening the ties between our community and the women and men, and their families, who serve our nation so selflessly," she said. "Our goal is to enable our local government members to provide more base operating support services for JBSA, freeing the military to focus efforts and resources on their mission, the defense of our nation."



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## U.S. Army North welcomes new commander, says farewell to Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson

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

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) conducted a change of command ceremony at their headquarters in the historic Quadrangle on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Sept. 9, 2021.

Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, presided over the ceremony in which Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, the outgoing commander of U.S. Army North, relinquished command to Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., who previously served as the commanding general of the U.S. Cadet Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In keeping with military tradition, Richardson passed the U.S. Army North colors, which symbolize command, to VanHerck, who then passed the guidon to Evans, thus endowing him with the authority of command, and formally recognizing him as the commanding general of U.S. Army North.

"As my time here has come to an end at U.S. Army North, the really great thing about the military is that you always have a great replacement to take the reins with a steady hand," Richardson said. "I cannot be more grateful that Lt. Gen. John Evans will lead U.S. Army North to bigger and better horizons. His strategic operational and combat experience make him the exact right leader, at the right time, to take the helm of this theater army."



SGT. DAVID COOK

Gen. Glen D. VanHerck (right), Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, passes the U.S. Army North colors to Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr. (left), during the U.S. Army North change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 9.

The U.S. Army North commander also serves as the senior Army commander for Joint Base San Antonio, the Department of Defense's largest joint base network, which includes JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis. "To my good friend and teacher, Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, thanks for a fabulous transition," Evans said. "I know that I have incredibly

huge shoes to fill. Your patience and diligence throughout our transition means I will be better prepared to meet the daily challenges of this dynamic command."

Both Richardson and Evans thanked everyone who attended the change of command in person and virtually. Evans then went on to address the U.S. Army North personnel in attendance.

"I consider it an honor to be counted among your number, and I promise you my very best as your new commander," Evans said. "I have seen your compassion, I have admired your professionalism, I have felt your strength, and that comes as no surprise to me, because you truly are the 'Strength of the Nation.'"

U.S. Army North is a three-star command dedicated

to federal military operations within North America and protects the Department of Defense's ability to man, equip, and train forces within the homeland. Through interagency and military partners, U.S. Army North conducts homeland defense planning and coordination and provides administrative control of the Air and Missile Defense Task Force.

Coined the "Strength of the Nation," U.S. Army North plans, exercises and provides life-saving and life-sustaining capabilities in support of federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners during natural or man-made disasters.

U.S. Army North is currently supporting the Afghan evacuee mission named Operation Allies Welcome, COVID-19 response operations in hospitals across the nation, and wildland firefighting operations in Northern California in support of several federal, state and local partners.

Lt. Gen. Richardson assumed command of U.S. Army North in July 2019 and will be moving forward in her career, promoting to general and taking command at her next assignment at U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida.

"U.S. Army North is a one-of-a-kind land component command for the nation and we have shown how the Department of Defense fits very nicely in the national response framework," Richardson said. "There is no mission more honorable than helping Americans in our homeland overcome and recover from whatever crisis or disaster has happened. This assignment has been the highlight of my career."



TRISTIN ENGLISH

*Soldiers with the Fort Sam Houston Caisson Section carry the flag-draped remains of Col. Richard E. Cole during his interment ceremony Sept. 7 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Cole remained a familiar face within the Air Force after his retirement, touring Air Force schoolhouses and installations to help promote the spirit of service among Airmen.*

# Last of Doolittle Raiders memorialized during ceremony

**By David DeKunder**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Remembered as a man who faithfully served his country and was a devoted father and a man of faith, Lt. Col. Richard “Dick” Cole, the last of the Doolittle Raiders, was honored and posthumously promoted to the rank of colonel during a Sept. 7 ceremony at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course ballroom.

Family members and distinguished guests, including Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. CQ Brown Jr., gathered to pay their respects for Cole, who died at the age of 103 on April 9, 2019.

Cole was the last surviving member of the Doolittle Raiders, a group of 80 crew members led by Lt. Col. James “Jimmy” Doolittle, who flew 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers from the USS Hornet on April 18, 1942, en route to an air raid to attack

Tokyo in World War II, after the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Cole was Doolittle’s co-pilot in the lead B-25 aircraft during the mission.

Brown presented a certificate of Cole’s posthumous promotion to colonel to Cole’s children, retired Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Rich Cole and Cindy Cole Chal.

In his opening remarks, Brown said Cole and the rest of the Doolittle Raiders embodied the idea of service before self, as Cole volunteered for many dangerous missions during his 26-year military career.

“I would say Dick Cole lived a life and had a career that many of us would say was full of danger, but he was up to the task,” Brown said. “He is truly a member of our Greatest Generation. And I’m proud to say this heritage of volunteering to do what is right and answer the nation’s call lives with our Airmen today.”

After the Doolittle raid, Brown said Cole undertook other dangerous missions, including going to the China-Burma-India Theater where he flew C-47s to transport supplies to China through “The Hump,” a difficult air passage through the Himalayan Mountains, to help the Chinese in their fight against Japan.

In 1944, Cole flew with the 1st Air Commando Group, who supported a commando group in the jungles of Burma by providing fighter cover, airdrops and landing of troops, food and equipment as well as evacuation of casualties.

Rich Cole said his father was a faithful husband to his wife of nearly 60 years, Lucia Martha, or “Marty,” who passed away at the age of 79 in 2003, and a devoted father to his family of five children.

“I struggle with how you really put into words 180 years of collective life and 60 years of

marriage,” Rich Cole said. “But if I had to say one thing about mom and dad is that it would be that they fought their entire lives for their family, their faith and their friends and their flag.”

When one of the Cole children, Andy, contracted spinal meningitis which affected his brain when he was a year old, Rich Cole said instead of putting him in an institution, as suggested by doctors, his parents decided to do whatever they could to make sure their son could have a normal life as possible.

“They brought him home and taught him how to walk and talk,” Rich Cole said. “He got his GED and led a productive life. Even though Andy remained special needs all his life, we all enjoyed him and mom and dad gave him every opportunity that they gave the rest of us to be successful in life.”

Retired Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, who was a friend of the Cole family for 30

years, said Cole will now rest in peace with his beloved wife, Martha, and the rest of the Doolittle Raiders.

“After 103 years of serving his country, raising a beautiful family and honoring all of those who have served in the armed forces, Dick Cole went home to be with his beloved wife, and a group of (Doolittle) Raiders and is settled down in the Father’s house,” Baldwin said. “It’s a promise from God. Mission complete, Col. Cole; at ease for eternity. Amen.”

After the memorial service, the remains of Cole and his wife, Martha, were interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery during a graveside service, which included the presentation of colors and flyovers of B-25, C-47 and F-15 aircraft.

The memorial service and posthumous promotion for Cole and interment of his remains occurred on what would have been his 106th birthday.



# Stage 1 water restrictions implemented across JBSA

## JBSA Civil Engineers

The 10-day average of the Bexar County index well J-17 reached 657 feet mean sea level as of Aug. 3, triggering Stage 1 water restrictions for all Joint Base San Antonio locations. Stage 1 goes into effect when J-17 dips below 660 feet.

The J-17 well is housed in a nondescript building on Fort Sam Houston, just off Harry Wurzbach and near the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and serves as the official well for recording groundwater elevations in the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer, according to the Edwards Aquifer Authority website (<http://www.edwardsaquifer.org>).

The JBSA Base Civil Engineer declared Stage 1 water restrictions effective immediately in accordance with the current JBSA Critical Period Management Plan and Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The biological opinion limits JBSA's water draw from the Edward's Aquifer in order to protect

eight endangered species which live in the aquifer and its associated springs. These species can only survive when aquifer levels and spring flows are adequately maintained.

The restrictions within Stage 1 facing base residents and personnel are substantial and all must comply with the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan.

### All the Stage 1 restrictions in addition to Stage Normal water restrictions are in place:

- » Continue Stage Normal water use measures except as noted or replaced by Stage 1 rules.
- » Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. on your designated watering day, as determined by your address or facility number.
- » Reduce water consumption by any means available.
- » New turf or landscaping may be watered as identified in Stage Normal until adequate growth is maintained.
- » Privately owned vehicle washing is allowed once per week on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste. A positive shutoff nozzle must be used with hoses to prevent water waste. Don't let water run into the street.
- » All swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used.
- » Hand watering with a handheld hose, soaker hose, drip irrigation, bucket or watering can is permitted any time and any day.
- » Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited except in order to correct life, health or safety concerns.
- » Irrigation of athletic fields is permitted only as required to maintain the turf viability/safety. Athletic fields continue Stage Normal water use measures.
- » The landscaping on golf courses are required to follow a one day per

week watering.

» Use of fountains, waterfalls or other aesthetic water features outdoors or indoors is prohibited, unless a variance has been granted for 100 percent non-potable water use.

In Stage 1, the watering days are as follows if address/facility number ends in 0 or 1, Monday; 2 or 3, Tuesday; 4 or 5, Wednesday, 6 or 7, Thursday; and 8 or 9, Friday.

All water restriction measures and details are listed in the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan available online at [www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf](http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130809-013.pdf).

JBSA personnel should not confuse the JBSA water restrictions with the SAWS restriction levels. The JBSA water restrictions are more stringent and begin sooner than SAWS restrictions.

Call 652-2392 to report water abusers. Those found not abiding with the JBSA Critical Period Management Plan may face potential disciplinary measures. Reports will remain anonymous.

## JBSA LEADERS SIGN NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

*Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commander, gives closing remarks during a Suicide Prevention Proclamation ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 7. Leaders from Joint Base San Antonio came together Sept. 7 to sign a National Suicide Prevention Month proclamation during the ceremony and pledged to support programs and initiatives to reduce suicide among service members and their families, retirees, veterans and Department of Defense civilians. National Suicide Prevention Month is an observance that occurs each September to raise awareness about suicide prevention and help end the stigma around asking for help with suicidal thoughts. This year's theme, "Connect to Protect: Support Is Within Reach," highlights the critical role relationships and interpersonal connections to family, friends, the community and resources can play in preventing suicide.*



BRIAN J. VALENCIA



# Army South hosts 2nd Operation Alamo Shield Mission Prep

By Leanne Thomas

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South hosted the second pre-deployment training seminar, Operation Alamo Shield Mission Prep, at their headquarters Aug. 31-Sept. 1 to prepare teams assigned to the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade for future training and advising missions in Colombia, Honduras and Panama.

As the Joint Forces Land Component Command for U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Army South serves as the higher headquarters for the Security Force Assistance teams in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility, as they build U.S. readiness by conducting expeditionary deployment operations in partner nations. This supports training on SFA mission



ROCHELLE NAUS

*Leaders from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (left) listen to Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen (right), the U.S. Army South commanding general, during Operation Alamo Shield Mission Prep II at the U.S. Army South Headquarters Sept. 1.*

essential tasks and partner nation efforts in the region.

"Heel-to-toe rotations of Security Force Assistance teams reduce the time available for face-to-face transition and institutional knowledge between advisors," said Maj. Alex Zerio, the lead planner for Operation Alamo Shield Mission Prep II. "To limit the loss of tacit advisor knowledge, U.S. Army South directed the

establishment of a USSOUTHCOM-specific academics program that increases regional awareness, explains policy guidance, and illuminates lessons learned from previous SFA activities for the deploying teams."

During the two-day conference, the incoming SFA teams received a broad overview of the future deployments and attended

briefings to address force protection, authorities, operations, sustainment and diplomatic information significant to each country and U.S. Embassy.

"We definitely want to thank you for all you did and for making this an extremely beneficial trip for us to come down here," said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Williams, the senior enlisted advisor for 2nd Battalion, 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, as he addressed the Army South presenters, as well as his team listening to the seminar, virtually, from Fort Benning, Georgia.

The 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade began supporting USSOUTHCOM with initial training and advising visits in the region last year. These advising teams are specially selected and trained

to assess, support, advise and liaise with partners in Central and South America. In addition, they provide assistance based on the partner militaries' operational and institutional needs.

"We are really looking forward to working with you," said Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen, U.S. Army South commanding general. "We are here to support you throughout the mission, and we'll make sure you have all the resources you need."

Security Force Assistance teams provide USSOUTHCOM and our partners across the Western Hemisphere the opportunity to display our resolve and demonstrate a mutual commitment to regional peace, respect for sovereignty and an enduring promise to uphold shared ideals and values.

## ARNORTH military hospital support to FEMA expands

U.S. Army North Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 60 military medical personnel deployed in three 20-person teams, each to one of three states — Idaho, Arkansas and Alabama — to support civilian healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients in local hospitals.

These three teams join six other teams currently working in six hospitals, three in Louisiana, two in Mississippi, and one in a different Alabama city. U.S. Army North, under U.S. Northern Command's oversight, will provide operational command of the active-duty military COVID-19 response in support of federal efforts and the states.

"This is the first time Department of Defense medical assets have deployed to support both Idaho and Arkansas during the pandemic," said Lt. Gen.

Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH commander. "We are proud to be called upon to support our local, state, and federal partners there, and in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, in this whole-of-government response."

The military medical personnel includes nurses, respiratory therapists and medical doctors.

In Idaho, one 20-person team from the U.S. Army is supporting Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene.

In Arkansas, another 20-person team from the U.S. Army will support the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

In Alabama, one 20-person team from the U.S. Navy will support Dale Medical Center in Ozark. They join a U.S. Air Force team already in Dothan.

ARNORTH is the joint force land component command of USNORTHCOM.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MICHAEL H. LEHMAN

*U.S. Army Capt. Corrine Brown, a critical care nurse assigned to the 627th Hospital Center, and Molly Butenhagen, a civilian critical care nurse at Kootenai Health regional medical center, provide care to a COVID-positive patient during the COVID-19 response operations in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Sept. 6.*

# Fort Sam Houston Elementary School honors U.S. Army Environmental Command for partnership efforts

By Cathy Kropp

U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School employees and Fort Sam Houston Independent School District school board members visited U.S. Army Environmental Command headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 8 to recognize the unit for its support of the elementary school for the 2020-2021 school year.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command earned the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence award for Outstanding Community Partnership K12 for their support to military children through their partnership with the elementary school.

"We feel lucky to have the support of our community for our school. Some organizations, like the U.S. Army Environmental Command, go out of their way to find ways to engage the children," said Dr. Joseph Cerna, Fort Sam Houston Elementary School principal.

That command's partnership began in 2011 as part of the Adopt-a-School program. The nomination highlighted the latest event, a nature walk, held May 6.

"Activities like these give our scientists the opportunity to share with students their knowledge of the environmental sciences and a genuine love of lifelong discovery," said Col. Alicia M. Masson, USAEC commander.

At the Salado Creek Park at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in May, USAEC employees hosted seven hands-on learning stations about geology, archaeology, entomology, recycling, and wildlife difference and similarities, such as skins and skulls and horns and antlers. More than 130 students rotated through the stations to hear Army employees share about their field of work and passion.

The Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award™ recognizes successful partnerships and projects that ultimately benefit military-connected children.

Beginning in 2004, the Lt. Gen. H. G. "Pete" Taylor awards have been an opportunity to recognize individual



PHOTOS BY TROY DARR

Dr. Joseph Cerna (right), principal of Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, presents the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence award for Outstanding Community Partnership K12 to Col. Alicia M. Masson (left), commander of U.S. Army Environmental Command, during a ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 8.

**"Activities like these give our scientists the opportunity to share with students their knowledge of the environmental sciences and a genuine love of lifelong discovery."**

Col. Alicia M. Masson  
USAEC commander

and community partnerships formed between military installations and school districts that serve military-connected children. Winners reflect Taylor's belief that "goodness starts at the local level."



Scott Weber, a geologist, asks children if they know the definition of geology at the Geology station during the U.S. Army Environmental Command Nature Walk held for about 140 kindergartners from the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School May 6.



# AIT Soldiers, former combat medic come to aid of fallen retiree at FSH Exchange

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U. S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Four Advanced Individual Training Soldiers training at the U. S. Army Medical Center of Excellence to become 68W combat medics recently helped a fallen man at the Fort Sam Houston Post Exchange.

Pfc. Blair Sutcliffe, Pfc. Jalun Taylor, Pfc. Jaden King, and Pfc. Ryan Jones, all four assigned to Company C, 232nd Medical Battalion, stepped in to help a U.S. Army retiree who had lost his balance and fallen Aug. 29 at the PowerZone section of the Exchange. The four Soldiers came to the man's aid and stayed with him until emergency responders arrived.

Lt. Col. Dennis Segui, 187th Medical Battalion Commander, was also at the Exchange when the man fell. Segui, a former 68W combat medic himself, helped the fallen man and was aided by the four Soldiers.

Segui wanted to recognize them for their selfless act. He presented the Soldiers with commander's coins at a ceremony in front of the company. The 187th Medical Battalion is one of four battalions under the 32nd Medical Brigade.

"In a deployed environment, you are the confidence that is within the warfighter, because knowing that you

are amongst them, gives them the courage to do what they do best, which is to place themselves in harm's way in support of the mission," Segui said. "These four medics answered the call, in garrison, and demonstrated the moral courage to be there when no one else responded."

"At first I was trying to figure out what was happening when I heard a scream and then honestly, instinct took over," Taylor said. "We went over to the man and tried to help him, even though we weren't finished training. My battle buddies and I tried to do something instead of letting just him sit there."

"We saw him fall and wasn't getting up, obviously hurt, and we all just reacted," Jones added. "Two of us went to his help to make sure he was OK and staying awake while King and I went to get help."

"They had no idea what the situation was. Most people would be scared," said Staff Sgt. Samantha Frank, the Soldiers' drill sergeant, expressing her pride in her troops. "These Soldiers haven't completed their training, they are probably uncertain of their skills, but they weren't scared. They acted when they were needed and that made me very proud."

The fallen retiree, who was helped by emergency responders, is reportedly doing well, thanks in part to the quick action of the four future combat medics.



PHOTOS BY JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Command Sgt. Maj. Chalawnda M. Kelley, 232nd Medical Battalion, fist bumps Pfc. Ryan Jones after he was recognized with a commander's coin.



(From left) Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Carson, 187th Medical Battalion, with Pfc. Jalun Taylor, Pfc. Blair Sutcliffe, Pfc. Jaden King and Pfc. Ryan Jones, from Company C, 232nd Medical Battalion, pose with Lt. Col. Dennis Segui, 187th Medical Battalion commander. Segui presented the four Soldiers with commander's coins to recognize their selfless service in helping a fallen man at the Fort Sam Houston Exchange.

# Dedication rewarded: BAMC neonatal nurse goes above and beyond for his patients

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“For recognition of conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as neonatal intensive care unit charge and bedside nurse,” was the beginning of a nomination letter submitted by a grateful father and husband about a Brooke Army Medical Center nurse. If that didn’t get someone’s attention, the story that followed sure did.

Air Force Maj. Daniel “Frenchy” Bourgeois submitted the heartfelt letter about Jonathan Stevens, a BAMC neonatal intensive care unit clinical nurse, because of the care he provided to his wife and two sons. The letter led to Stevens receiving a DAISY Award, which is presented to nurses who provide extraordinary care to their patients.

## Bourgeois Family Story

In 2018, Elisa Bourgeois gave birth to their first child, a baby boy who was three months premature.

“It was on that day we met this nurse and it was from that moment that he already made a huge impression on the wife and me,” Bourgeois said. “He entered the room where my wife was getting prepped for surgery and established that he was the charge nurse and was going to take care of us like we were family. His level of teamwork and leadership skills were poised and proactive amid the chaos of doctors, nurses, aides, students and the unending beeps and tones given off by various lifesaving machines.”

After giving birth, Elisa suffered from postpartum depression.

“His sense of compassion was right where it needed to be,”



JASON W. EDWARDS

Jonathan Stevens (center), registered nurse, was presented the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 24.

Bourgeois said. “He was able to drive away other nurses when she needed time alone and brought in specialists when she wanted someone to talk to.”

On several occasions, Stevens also helped Bourgeois better understand the conditions his premature son faced.

“He would come in early or stay late with me to look up answers or ask doctors about those specific conditions and the risks associated with the treatments,” Bourgeois said. “He would also do the same with my wife, teaching her about feeding, swaddling, and skin-to-skin techniques.”

In the months that followed, Stevens even made sure the

couple took time for themselves.

“He would drag us out to see movies, take us to his favorite food hideouts and concerts to try to keep our spirits up. From saying comfortable words to just physically being there in silence if that’s what we needed, he was there,” Bourgeois said.

After his discharge from the NICU, their son made repeated visits to the emergency department for complications with his nervous and gastrointestinal systems. Once again, Stevens’ skill and compassion was needed. Because of their son’s fragile condition, Stevens was called upon to assist with blood draws and IVs.

Just over a year later, the couple’s second son arrived and Stevens was there to help with his delivery also.

“The process of staying in the NICU for a second 3-month stay was flawless thanks to the ceaseless, positive attention given by this nurse,” Bourgeois said. “His actions are above and beyond the call of duty and are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service.”

Stevens, a former Air Force medic, began his nursing career in 2007 working at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center’s neonatal ICU. When the mission moved to BAMC, so did he. With his 10 years of active duty service, Stevens is entering

his 25th year of government service this November.

“Initially, my choice to work at BAMC was logical as part of the joint service move, but I have been so impressed by this facility and the dedication of the people who work here,” Stevens said, “in particular, the NICU staff, the emergency department staff, where I have assisted with patients many times and have also been a patient, and, more recently, the medical and surgical ICU staff who were directly involved with caring for two of our NICU mothers.”

Army Col. Jody Brown, deputy commander for inpatient services, praised Stevens for his dedication to his patients.

“Stevens is an exceptionally caring and committed nurse who authentically demonstrates holistic nursing,” she said. “We are truly fortunate to have such an amazing nurse on the BAMC team.”

“This DAISY recognition means a great deal to me and is extremely humbling considering the company of outstanding nurses at BAMC,” Stevens said. “BAMC is truly a world-class facility and, in my opinion, there is no other hospital in San Antonio where I would want to work or receive medical care.”

The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by members of the family of Patrick Barnes. As they brainstormed what the DAISY Foundation would actually do, they kept coming back to the one positive thing they held on to during his eight-week illness: the extraordinary care he and they received from his nurses. To honor his legacy, the family created The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The initiative has since grown into a recognition program embraced by thousands of healthcare organizations around the world. BAMC presents two DAISY Awards per quarter.



# LACKLAND

## Thirteen shooters qualify for bronze pistol badge

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 2021 Excellence in Competition Pistol Shoot, hosted by the 37th Training Support Squadron Combat Weapons Flight, brought out 130 military participants, all vying to place in the top 10 percent.

The event was held at the Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex Aug. 27. Competitors received a briefing on the Beretta M9 pistol, along with a safety briefing, before going out on the range. Shooters fired at 25 yards single-handed as well as double during slow/rapid firing portions of the course.

"This competition helped bring units from all around JBSA-Lackland together and bring a sense of normalcy back into our lives," said Staff Sgt. Justin Sippola, 37th TRSS.

Sippola organized the event along with Staff Sgt. Anthony Diehm; Staff Sgt. Dustin Fowler and his spouse, Brittany Fowler; Michael Sherburne; Matthew Viggato; and all Combat Arms instructors from the 37th TRSS.

The top 10 percent best shooters, named below, may now wear the Air Force Bronze Excellence in Competition Pistol Badge on their blue uniforms.

► Staff Sgt. Brett Miner, 37th Training Support Squadron, 268  
► Tech. Sgt. John Davis, 322nd Training Squadron, 261  
► Tech. Sgt. Amaris Pendleton, 343rd TRS, 254



PHOTOS BY TRISTIN ENGLISH

- Staff Sgt. Paul Frazier, 37th TRSS, 250
- Tech. Sgt. William Klein, 321st TRS, 248
- U.S. Army Maj. Richard Vincent, 377th Theater Sustainment Command, 245
- Tech. Sgt. Alexander Scott, 37th TRSS, 243
- Tech. Sgt. Justin Sonan, 149th Maintenance Squadron, 243
- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Porche, 343rd TRS, 240
- Tech. Sgt. David Stivers, 344th TRS, 238
- Master Sgt. Jason Dalton, 344th TRS, 237
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Sortino, 343rd TRS, 237
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Reid, 37th TRSS, 236



Michael Sherburne, 37th Training Support Squadron, signals during the 2021 Excellence in Competition Pistol Shoot at the Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex Aug. 27.

Two of the 130 military participants at the 2021 Excellence in Competition Pistol Shoot fire Beretta M9s at the Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex Aug. 27.



# 149th Fighter Wing pitches in for Louisiana cleanup

By Tech. Sgt.  
Agustin G. Salazar  
149TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 149th Fighter Wing from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland traveled to Louisiana recently to help with Hurricane Ida recovery efforts.

The Gunfighters are part of a joint effort by the Texas Military Department to help Gulf Coast residents during a challenging time.

The Air National Guardsmen were in Thibodaux Sept. 4 and in Raceland Sept. 6, assisting in cleaning up debris.

Those on duty include more than 8,800 Soldiers and Airmen from 14 states responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

“The military members conducted search and rescue sweeps, provided security and support of local law enforcement, established distribution locations for people to get food and water, and cleared roads to allow crews to restore power to more than 1 million residents,” said Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, National Guard Bureau chief.



Members of the 149th Fighter Wing help clean up the Raceland Community Center in Raceland, Louisiana, during Hurricane Ida response Sept. 6.

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. AGUSTIN G. SALAZAR





# RANDOLPH

## Are you ready to fill the Air Force Spark Tank?

### Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Now is your chance to lead Air Education and Training Command to a three-peat at this year's Air Force Spark Tank 2022 competition. AETC Airmen can submit their ideas for the AF-level competition using the GAIN platform at the following link: <https://gain.apps.dso.mil/>.

In 2020, Capt. David Coyle and 1st Lt. Daniel Treece, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, clinched the Air Force Spark Tank trophy with their "Threat Emitter" innovation after successfully demonstrating its capability during Exercise Blue Flag at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The following year, Maj. Kevin Hawkins and 1st Lt. Treece, 56th Fighter Wing, showcased their "Next-Gen Debrief" innovation, which was also lauded by Air Force senior leaders. For additional information on this innovation, visit the AFWERX website at: <https://www.afwerx.af.mil/spark-tank.html>.

All AETC Airmen are encouraged to submit ideas they believe will



COURTESY GRAPHIC

significantly impact Air Force missions within the next six to 24 months. It is critical to enter submissions as early as possible so AETC innovation experts can assist with your pitch video and prepare you for the competition. The campaign runs until Oct. 15, 2021.

In late October, Lt. Gen. Brad Webb,

AETC commander, will chair the command's selection board to choose the top two command submissions. These two initiatives will represent the First Command as Spark Tank quarter finalists.

The Semi-Finals board, co-chaired by the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the VCSO, with personnel

from AFWERX, SAF/MG, and subject matter experts will select the Department of the Air Force's top six innovations to head to the finals.

The Department of the Air Force Spark Tank Finals will be held in conjunction with the AFA Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida, tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2022.

Airmen can obtain innovation expert support by contacting their local Wing Process Manager or Spark Cell point of contact. A list of these resources can be found on the HQ AETC Innovation Dashboard:

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/bceedd1c-7abf-4016-a58f-0a75b6fd9doc/page/KKfMC>.

The HQ AETC/A9A, Innovation Advancement Division, is the MAJCOM lead for AETC Spark Tank 2022. For more information or assistance, email the HQ AETC/A9A workflow at: [aetca9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil](mailto:aetca9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil).

Help AETC keep its winning ways by submitting your Innovation into the GAIN platform using the following link: <https://gain.apps.dso.mil/>.

## Travel screenings now automated for families of Airmen, Guardians

By Traci Howells

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen and Guardians selected for a permanent change of station are now able to access automated family member travel screenings.

As of Aug. 30, Department of the Air Force members with dependents selected for an assignment will receive an email and a myVector notification to complete the mandatory screening questionnaire electronically; paper copies of the AF Form 4380, Air Force Special Needs Screener, are no longer accepted.

"We have been making numerous changes to our systems and processes to streamline and simplify the lives of our Airmen, Guardians and families," said Tami Nelson, transformation leader for

Headquarters Air Force. "The new digitized process is a much cleaner way to clear members for their assignment."

Though all Airmen and Guardians with dependents must complete the travel screening questionnaire prior to PCS, the automated system update is especially beneficial for EFMP families, Nelson said.

For EFMP families, the automated capabilities will eliminate many, if not all, medical appointments, enable Common Access Card-free system access, and allow family members to complete the paperwork electronically, which will also save data and smooth the process for future PCS moves.

"These changes are part of a bigger process," Nelson said. "Because we have implemented an automated system, we will also be able to take cases through

the system electronically, which means better routing and accountability. Members will be able to track their case and find where it is in the process, which means greater transparency."

Nelson said one of the most important features of the automated travel screener is a section that allows families to enter additional pertinent information.

"If you are in need of a specific specialty, have previously been to the base, or have done your research and know there are providers available, the more information you give us the faster your case will process," she said.

Prior to travel clearance, members will receive a notification whether care is available.

"When care is not available our assignment navigators will assist you with other options," Nelson said. "There

are a lot of great assignments out there and we may be able to move you to one that's a better fit for your family's medical and educational needs."

For more information on family member travel screenings requirements, contact your local Military Personnel Flight Career Development Section or Medical Treatment Facility EFMP-Medical office.

EFMP families can find more information by using these resources:

- EFMP Central Cell — [afpc.dp3x.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dp3x.workflow@us.af.mil)
- DAF Family Vector Website — <https://daffamilyvector.us.af.mil>
- Total Force Service Center — (800) 525-0102; (210) 565-0102 (option 7)
- DAF EFMP Facebook page — <https://www.facebook.com/AirForceEFMP>

# AFRS looks through diverse lens to support, retain leaders

By Randy Martin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the heart of a city known for its military culture, Air Force Recruiting Service is looking through a diverse lens to attract the best of America.

More than 100 people throughout the U.S. assembled for the "Celebrating Sisterhood Through Empowerment, Progress, and Change" Women's Symposium Aug. 10-12 at a hotel in downtown San Antonio. Dozens more tuned in virtually.

"When we say 'progress and change' we mean that there's a need for more female leaders in recruiting," said Senior Master Sgt. Stephanie Franco, production superintendent for the 338th Recruiting Squadron based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Historically, women like Franco comprised a small



RANDY MARTIN

Senior Master Sergeant Sgt. Stephanie Franco (left), production superintendent for the 338th Recruiting Squadron based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Master Sgt. Meagan Roberts from headquarters, Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, monitor the "Celebrating Sisterhood Through Empowerment, Progress, and Change" Women's Symposium Aug. 10.

fraction of the largely male recruiting force working in communities around the world. With more than 12 years in recruiting, she was an

ideal selection for the team that organized the symposium.

"We wanted to show these younger women that there are

others out here, like themselves, with who they can share their struggles or successes with. Or just widen that network of people they can go to."

The women Franco is talking about are often the service's face for the thousands of young people considering the total force as a career option. For AFRS's top recruiter, attracting the best for America is an imperative.

"As we work to get the right mix in our recruiting force, we need strong female leaders. It is so important," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, AFRS commander, during his opening address at the symposium. More broadly, Thomas said getting the best and brightest warfighters in our ranks is a readiness imperative. "And if we get to the point where we don't look like the democracy we serve, we put in peril the support of that democracy," he added.

His remarks were followed by a program that featured personal resiliency stories from a panoply of guest speakers with connections to the military or recruitment for the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard. The keynote speakers were retired Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, a former Inspector General of the Air Force and Chief Master Sgt. Wendy Thi, senior enlisted advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Force Management Integration.

There were also question-and-answer panels and several breakout sessions. Time was also afforded for networking.

"We have a different lens. It's not better or worse but it is a different perspective and that's what the Air Force is asking for, to have people from different backgrounds looking at problems so we can solve them better," Franco said.

## Guardians Wanted: U.S. Space Force unveils new recruiting commercial

By Chrissy Cuttita

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In a new recruiting commercial released Aug. 24, America's top Guardian called on the nation's best and brightest to step up to the challenge of serving in the newest branch of the armed services, the U.S. Space Force.

Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, Chief of Space Operations, featured in the spot, concludes the commercial with, "so yeah, space is hard," and a call to action in text that reads, "Guardians Wanted." His last words became the title of the commercial.

The U.S. Space Force released "Space is Hard" Aug. 24 during the 36th Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"This ad spotlights the critical mission our Guardians carry

out every day in defense of this nation, and how space is critical to everything we do in daily life and modern war," Raymond said. "We need talented, high-caliber recruits to help us tackle not only the physical problems we face in the space domain, but also the threats posed by our potential adversaries. We need bold, innovative leaders to join our lean and agile warfighting team. Those who are ready and willing to accept the challenge of protecting and defending America's interests in space ... join us."

The Department of the Air Force Recruiting Service and its advertising agency partner GSD&M filmed the commercial featuring the CSO, who expresses the myriad factors that make space the most challenging and complex operational environment known

to humankind.

"As the Space Force's recruiting arm, the CSO has charged us with communicating the vital role this new service performs for the nation and ensuring the Space Force has the most capable and brilliant minds to choose from as its ranks continue to grow," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, the top recruiter for the Air and Space Forces.

Thomas leads AFRS with a mission to inspire, engage and recruit the next generation of Airmen and Guardians.

The U.S. Space Force filled nearly 400 enlisted positions and more than 250 officer positions in Fiscal 2021. After just 10 months supporting that mission, recruiters are confident they are ready to recruit almost 500 enlisted Guardians in year two of Space Force recruiting. Space Force officers are trained

through the U.S. Force Academy, ROTC and Officer Training School.

"Competition to enter the Space Force this year was tough because of the limited number of positions available," Thomas said. "But interest was high, so we were able to select the best candidates for our nation's space mission. It's an exciting time for us to be at the forefront of the Space Force's future, and we've adapted our processes to meet the unique challenges of this lean, new service."

The U.S. Space Force is the only service in the Department of Defense that selects enlisted recruits at the national level by using individual interview questions to identify the best candidates. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and other armed forces selection criteria also apply.

New enlisted Guardians will

be hired in the Fiscal Year 2022 for the Space Systems Operations, Intelligence, and Cyber career fields. An officer selection board schedule is also posted on AFRS's line officer accessions webpage.

"Space is Hard" also makes its debut on the new Space Force Recruiting YouTube channel. Viewers are encouraged to comment and tag someone they know who might be ready to protect and defend the ultimate high ground.

AFRS launched its Space Force Recruiting social media platforms leading up to the release of the commercial and a Premiere on their YouTube page. The handle on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram is @GoSpaceForce.

For more information on military career opportunities in the Space Force, visit [www.spaceforce.com](http://www.spaceforce.com).